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'Diablo III' packs an evil punch, but comes up short on surprises

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Artist aims to capture Afghan experience in series of sketches

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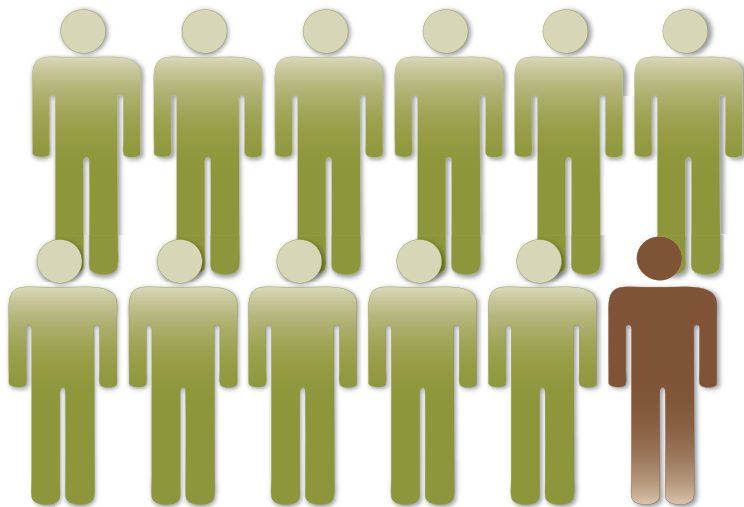
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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2014

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Free to Deployed Areas



ARMY DATA REVEAL LACK OF BLACK LEADERSHIP

Diversity dearth

By TOM VANDEN BROOK ■ USA Today

COMMAND of the Army's combat battalions and brigades — its pipeline to top leadership — is virtually devoid of black officers, according to interviews, documents and data obtained by USA Today.

The lack of black officers who lead infantry, armor and field artillery battalions and brigades — there are no black colonels at the brigade level this year — threatens the Army's effectiveness, disconnects it from American society and deprives black officers of the principal route to top Army posts, ac-

cording to officers and military sociologists. Fewer than 10 percent of active-duty Army officers are black compared with 18 percent of its enlisted men, according to the Army.

The problem is most acute in its main combat units: infantry, armor and artillery. In 2014, there has not been a single black colonel among those 25 brigades, the Army's main fighting unit of about 4,000 soldiers. Brigades consist of three to four battalions of 800 to 1,000 soldiers led by lieutenant colonels. Just one of those 78 battalions is scheduled to be led by a black officer in 2015.

SEE DIVERSITY ON PAGE 6

Black officers make up just 7 percent of the Army's infantry, armor and artillery officers.

Eradicating militants: A permanent war for US?

Fight against Islamic State underscores persistence of extremist organizations

By GREG MILLER
AND CRAIG WHITLOCK
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — In declaring that the United States would degrade and "ultimately destroy" an al-Qaida offshoot in Iraq and Syria, President Barack Obama articulated an objective that the United States has yet to achieve against any of the Islamist adversaries it has faced since the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

Through two wars, thousands of drone strikes and hundreds of covert

operations around the world, the United States has substantially weakened al-Qaida and its affiliates, eroding their capabilities in ways that have reduced the threat they pose to the United States.

The scope of that conflict is poised to expand again as U.S. military officials said Thursday that they were given new authority to begin targeting leaders of an al-Qaida rival known as the Islamic State.

But even as Obama warned that "it will take time to eradicate a cancer" like the Islamic State, the timing of his remarks — coming 13 years after the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon — underscored how elusive the finish line has been for the United States in a series of conflicts that have come to resemble a permanent war.

SEE MILITANTS ON PAGE 5

'We're not going to see an end to this in our lifetime.'

Charles Wald
retired Air Force
general

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"If they want to bring their smell detector, they can use it to test the customers and the drivers."

— Negus Gebrenarian, taxi driver, on a body odor test for cabbies serving San Diego International Airport. He says odors are just as likely to come from the back seat as the front

See story on Page 9

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2. One pilot missing, one stable after F/A-18 Hornets crash in Pacific
3. The old ways are no way for Army drill sergeants
4. 'Star Wars' comes to former US base in England
5. Retired Marine Gen. John Allen to coordinate Iraq, Syria effort

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MILITARY

1 pilot missing after F/A-18s crash

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Navy is searching for one pilot and treating the injuries of another after two F/A-18C Hornets crashed after colliding Friday over the western Pacific while operating from an aircraft carrier.

The aircraft, part of Carrier Air Wing 17 on the USS Carl Vinson, belonged to Strike Fighter Squadron 94 and Strike Fighter Squadron 113, according to a Navy release. The Carl Vinson is scheduled to participate in a large exercise off the coast of Guam beginning Monday, and was operating about 250 nautical miles west of Wake Island.

One pilot was pulled quickly from the water after the crash and is in stable condition, according to a spokesman for the Navy's 7th Fleet. Navy ships and aircraft were still searching for the other pilot.



A deck crew member of the USS Carl Vinson guides an F/A-18C Hornet during a take-off and landing exercise. Two similar Navy jets crashed into the western Pacific Ocean, the Pentagon said Friday.

The rescued pilot was in fair condition in the medical department of the Carl Vinson, Navy Cmdr. Jeannie Groeneveld told

St. Louis. The second pilot was missing, and the Navy is searching for him.

The Associated Press from San Diego.

A Navy spokeswoman at the Pentagon said officials were still investigating the cause of the crash, but believe the two aircraft collided. The two Hornets have not been recovered, according to the press release.

Ships involved in the search included the Carl Vinson, the cruiser USS Bunker Hill and destroyers USS Gridley, USS Sterrett and USS Dewey, along with helicopters assigned to Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 15.

The Carl Vinson is based in San Diego. It was scheduled to participate in the exercise Valiant Shield, which begins Monday and brings together 18,000 troops from across the U.S. services to test the military's Air-Sea Battle concept. Carrier Air Wing 17 is based at Naval Air Station Lemoore, near Fresno, Calif.

Court-martial eyed for Marine who left Iraq base in '04

BY JONATHAN DREW
The Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — A hearing officer has recommended a court-martial for a Marine accused of deserting his unit a decade ago in Iraq and later winding up in Lebanon for eight years, a defense lawyer said Thursday.

Civilian defense attorney Haytham Faraj said the officer over-seeing the military equivalent of a grand jury recommended that 34-year-old Cpl. Wassaf Hassoun face a general court-martial on charges including desertion and theft. A Marine general will have the final say on whether to try Hassoun.

Faraj also gave The Associated Press translated Lebanese government documents that he says illustrate how Hassoun was tied up with court proceedings and prevented from leaving Lebanon. The same documents were given to the military court.

Faraj said the hearing report by Lt. Col. Scott W. Martin notes the case consists mostly of circumstantial evidence and that many witnesses, including some in Iraq, would be hard to find. Still,

Martin found the government had enough evidence to proceed.

"It's not surprising," said Faraj, himself a former U.S. Marine. "I think Lt. Col. Martin wrote a fair report."

A Marine public affairs officer declined to comment on Martin's report.

The case began in June 2004, when Hassoun disappeared from a base in Fallujah. About a week later, he appeared in a photo purportedly taken by insurgents. Hassoun was blindfolded and had a sword poised above his head.

Hassoun, a naturalized American citizen born in Lebanon, turned up days later at the U.S. Embassy in Beirut saying he was kidnapped by extremists.

But the military doubted his story, and he was brought back to the U.S. while charges were considered. He was allowed to visit relatives in Utah in December 2004 when he disappeared again — eventually winding up back in Lebanon.

Military prosecutors argue Hassoun was unhappy with his deployment and left the Marines in Iraq in 2004. They cited witnesses who said Hassoun didn't

like how the U.S. was interrogating Iraqis and that he said he wouldn't shoot back at Iraqis.

Military officials say a marriage for Hassoun had been arranged with a woman in Lebanon. They are now married and have a son who has dual U.S. and Lebanese citizenship.

Faraj, who maintains the kidnapping story is true, said his client traveled to Lebanon in early 2005 while on leave and was soon arrested. He argues that court proceedings in Lebanon were triggered by the U.S. charges against Hassoun.

Military and legal experts have said it's unusual that a foreign country would try someone on desertion or theft charges related to U.S. military service.

Faraj conceded that it's strange but suggested Lebanese authorities were acting on information from the U.S. government, which has pledged more than \$1 billion in aid to that country since 2006.

"I don't really have an explanation for it," Faraj said of the court proceedings.

Marine prosecutors say Hassoun's whereabouts were unknown for eight years. He was

returned to the U.S. in 2014 after he contacted officials here.

The 62 pages of translated documents say Hassoun was arrested in 2005 by Lebanese authorities after Interpol issued a bulletin triggered by his status as a deserter. The documents say Lebanese authorities released him but took his passport.

A document from the foreign affairs ministry lists theft and desertion charges and refers to the U.S. Code of Military Justice.

"The USA department of Navy asks the seizure of all documents and possessions that are with the escaped soldier," states the March 2005 memo.

Several memos include Lebanese officials discussing whether to allow extradition. Eventually, a Lebanese justice ministry document from 2006 states there is "no extradition approval."

"Lebanese court has the right to trial and judge him," it says.

A judgment from a Lebanese military court dated April 2013 states Hassoun was fined for theft of military tools. A Lebanese court documents later indicates travel restrictions against him were lifted.

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STARS AND STRIPES



WAR/MILITARY

Washington Post senior graphics editor Richard Johnson traveled to Afghanistan recently to tell the story of soldiers in words and field sketches.

FORWARD OPERATING BASE

MLIGHTNING, Afghanistan's first morning in Forward Operating Base Lightning, Maj. Vance Trenkel, the 3rd Cavalry's public affairs officer, asked me to create a little good feeling and sketch someone wearing the 3rd Cav's Stetson. Of course I agreed, and made one plaintive request: it had to be some Clint Eastwood-looking crusty veteran of multiple conflicts. "I need to see the grit in the corners of his eyes," I said.

Regimental Command Sgt. Maj. Roger Heinze, a proud Texan and 25-year Army man, had that deep blue-eyed calculating gaze that made me feel like he could snap my neck like a twig using no other weapon than foul language. His personality, however, was warm and friendly. I did a quick recon of his features, k-bar like nose, bulldozer chin, those prairie-windswept eye creases and decided that a profile was the way to go.

We chatted about this and that while I drew.

"We lost a man today," he said at one point.

Suddenly the drawing seemed to be a bit of a daft thing to be doing. Heinze said there was going to be a ramp ceremony back at Bagram Air Field that night. I asked if I could accompany the delegation heading there. Forty minutes later we were aboard a pair of Black Hawks heading first for FOB Ghazni, before jumping off for BAF.

At Ghazni, Heinze and Col. Cameron Cantlon, the 75th commander of the 3rd Cavalry, got a quick briefing on what was known from the battalion commander, Lt. Col. Chris Hockenberry.

Spec. Brian Arsenault of the 1st Battalion, 504th Regiment, attached to the 3rd Cavalry had been part of a helicopter-inserted mission looking for insurgents in villages near FOB Ghazni. At the end of the mission, as the soldiers left the area on foot, they were engaged by small-arms fire; Arsenault was struck and killed. A paratrooper for the famed 82nd Airborne Division, he was 28; his tour was scheduled to end in November. Cantlon and Heinze went to talk to Arsenault's squad mates, but finding them all asleep opted not to wake them and committed to drop in again on the return leg. Over the noise of the choppers, Heinze shouted a message to Sgt. Maj. Ray Lewis at Ghazni: "Just harden up like a Texas armadillo, and be ready for a damned fight."

When I sketched Staff Sgt. Brian Arbuckle, I didn't realize it at the time that he is the regimental flag bearer. I had noticed him carrying a long camouflaged bag to the chopper and assumed it to be a sniper rifle; it was actually the regimental colors.

When we finally got to Bagram it was after dark.

We had a couple of hours to wait, and I spent it with the regimental flag bearer. I asked Arbuckle what it is like to stand up there at a point of such emotional intensity. "I feel it is a pretty important thing to do, especially when it is one of our own ... I really don't want to mess it up ... it can be pretty nerve-racking," he said. "But when it is someone closer to home, someone in your unit, then we are kind of like a family." He added, "Other than that, it is like everything else in the Army, you are told to do it and you go do it."

No cameras are allowed at ramp ceremonies, so I left the runway with the image of Arbuckle frozen in my mind. When the ceremony was over and ev-

AFGHANISTAN: IN WORDS & SKETCHES

STORY AND ILLUSTRATIONS BY

RICHARD JOHNSON / The Washington Post



Above: Army Staff Sgt. Brian Arbuckle, a regimental flag bearer, is shown on a chopper flight from Forward Operating Base Lightning to a ramp ceremony at Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan.

Right: Regimental Command Sgt. Maj. Roger Heinze is shown at Forward Operating Base Lightning.

gryone else from my group hit the sack, I got to work and created a sketch. In it, Arbuckle is silhouetted against the black Afghan night with regimental colors held aloft, lit only by the glow from inside the rear doors of the C-17 Globemaster, where the flag-draped casket of Spec. Brian Arsenault is lying. Arbuckle stands with the flag moving slightly in

the breeze as a pair of F-16s on afterburner scream up the runway, while a formation of at least 400 soldiers stands with heads bowed in respect to a fallen comrade.

Everything vibrates and bounces when you are drawing on a chopper. I have to feel for a smooth spot in travel to draw the longer lines, then take the pen off the page when it rattles again. I recorded my first sketch, of Capt. John Gorczynski, on my helmet cam while on board the chopper with the side doors open.

The new element of cross wind made hanging on to both paper and pen an additional challenge.

When we touched down again at Ghazni, Cantlon and Heinze fulfilled their promise of the previous day and spent an hour talking to Arsenault's squadmates. The colonel spoke first, reassuring them of how it was OK to mourn the loss of their friend and compatriot. How he hoped it would be the last loss.

And of the value of what they were doing, the importance of the mission, and the essential nature of clearance operations in maintaining everyone's safety on the FOB and the safety of the eventual withdrawal from Ghazni in the coming months.

"You have to do what you are doing so you don't have a catastrophic case here, where there is a VBED [vehicle-borne explosive device], then guys get inside this wire" wearing suicide vests, "then you have a hell of a situation on your hands," said Cantlon.

Heinze, the command's sergeant major, spoke last.

"I am not a psychiatrist, I am not a chaplain, I am just a guy that has lived through 46 years, I have been through what you have been through," he said. "I have lost a lot of troopers, and I have held that life in my hands and I have watched it slip away. But there are bad people out there that want us all dead. And you have to do what you were trained to do, you got to pick up the damned rifle and attack the freaking enemy ..."

"Then we can all go home."

WAR ON TERRORISM

Retired general to head effort against Islamic State

By **LOLITA C. BALDOR**
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Retired Marine Gen. John Allen will coordinate the broad international effort to battle the Islamic State militants, as the campaign against the extremist group ramps up and nations begin to determine what role each will play, U.S. officials said Thursday.

Allen, who has been serving as a security adviser to Secretary of State John Kerry, is expected to work with the nearly 40 nations around the world who have

agreed to join the fight and help them coordinate what each will contribute, several officials told The Associated Press.

The officials spoke about Allen's expected appointment on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the matter ahead of an announcement.

Allen comes to the job with vast experience coordinating international allies on the war front.

He served as deputy commander in Iraq's Anbar province from 2006 to 2008, working with Arab partners on organizing the

Sunni uprising against al-Qaida. He moved from there to serve for two years as the deputy commander of U.S. Central Command, which oversees military troops and operations in the Middle East, North Africa and Central Asia.

Allen next became the top U.S. commander in Afghanistan from 2011 to 2013, where he worked with international allies who sent troops to the battlefield.

As a result of his experience, Allen is very familiar with many of the Middle Eastern nations and leaders considered crucial

to the latest effort to degrade and destroy the Islamic State group militants who have seized control of portions of Iraq and Syria in a ruthless reign of terror.

He also has worked closely with most of the key military and diplomatic leaders, including Gen. Lloyd Austin, the current head of U.S. Central Command, who will oversee America's military campaign.

President Barack Obama announced Wednesday night that the U.S. will be expanding airstrikes in Iraq and into Syria, in an aggressive move to root out

the Islamic State group extremists where ever they are. Obama, Kerry and Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel have spent the past week meeting with international leaders overseas in an effort to build a broad coalition of nations — particularly Arab countries in the region — to aid the fight.

Officials are looking for partners to help train moderate Syrian rebels, work with the Iraqi security forces, contribute equipment, ammunition, intelligence, logistics and funding, as well as possibly also launch airstrikes.

Obama's counterterrorism fight faces significant risk

By **ROBERT BURNS**
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama's decision to expand airstrikes in Iraq and to extend them to Syria raises a host of questions about how an intensified military campaign can achieve his goal of destroying the Islamic State group.

A look at how the president's plan may unfold and its prospects for success:

Why conduct more bombing in Iraq?

When he first authorized airstrikes in early August, Obama linked them to a few limited objectives, including defending U.S. personnel and facilities, helping besieged civilians and protecting critical infrastructure like the Mosul Dam. In his speech Wednesday, Obama opened a new range of target possibilities, and the Pentagon is now free to hit any Islamic State group targets it deems necessary anywhere in the country.

The Pentagon's press secretary, Navy Rear Adm. John Kirby, said Thursday this means a "more aggressive" U.S. campaign in Iraq, supported for the first time by manned intelligence-gathering planes based inside Iraq.

What good can that do, given the collapse of Iraqi forces in June when the militants swept across northern Iraq?

The idea is to use a broader air campaign to help Iraqi and Kurdish ground forces roll back the Islamic State group's gains. This is to be aided by teams of U.S. military advisers who will embed with Iraqi brigade headquarters — not to fight alongside Iraqi soldiers but to advise Iraqi forces on how

to retake and hold territory that the militants would be forced to abandon if the airstrikes are as effective as hoped.

The Pentagon said Thursday that there will be 15 to 20 such advisory teams, with about a dozen U.S. soldiers each.

What's to stop the militants from using Syria as a sanctuary?

It already is a sanctuary. Obama said he will eliminate that by expanding the U.S. air campaign into eastern Syria. It's not clear when airstrikes in Syria will begin, but the Pentagon says it is ready to start now. Officials won't talk about potential targets because that would unnecessarily jeopardize their effectiveness and would raise the risk to U.S. pilots, but they likely would include Islamic State group buildings, training sites and supply lines.

Can airstrikes force the Islamic State group out of Syria?

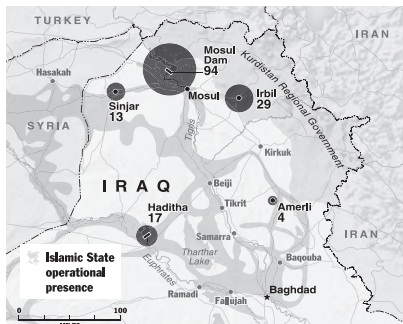
Almost certainly not. The hope is that the airstrikes will play the same role foreseen in Iraq — to create opportunities for local ground forces to squeeze the territory occupied by the Islamic State group militants. The problem in Syria is finding sufficient numbers of capable and moderate forces to work with. U.S. efforts to date have not been successful, and now Congress is balking at authorizing the Pentagon to begin a more ambitious program of training and arming an indigenous land force inside Syria.

How effectively can the U.S. empower local forces in Syria, given the civil war in that chaotic country?

Many people doubt that it can be done, but Obama said it wants to take some number of the moderate forces opposing the re-

U.S. airstrikes targeting Islamic State

The U.S. military has conducted 156 airstrikes in Iraq against the Islamic State group, carried out with a combination of drones and strike aircraft. Here's where the U.S. attacks took place and the number of Islamic State targets damaged or destroyed.



Islamic State targets damaged or destroyed

| | |
|---|------------|
| Vehicles Includes armed vehicles and personnel carriers | 162 |
| Facilities Includes anti-aircraft artillery and IED locations | 29 |
| Weapon systems Includes fighting positions and checkpoints | 21 |

SOURCES: CENTCOM; The Institute for the Study of War; the Long War Journal; news reports

THE WASHINGTON POST

gime of Syrian President Bashar Assad and send them to Saudi Arabia for training and arming. But it's unclear whether that will work. Michael O'Hanlon, a de-

fense analyst at the Brookings Institution, said these opposition forces are the same "hodgepodge of weak, fractured, local resistance elements" that were

available for U.S. training and equipping when the Syria conflict began three years ago.

What makes the Islamic State such a tough foe?

Although some have described the group as the most fearsome jihadi outfit of all — more menacing than al-Qaida — its military might is limited. For instance, it has no significant air defense capability. The weaponry it does possess is getting hit regularly by U.S. airstrikes; the Pentagon said Wednesday that 212 Islamic State group targets have been damaged or destroyed during the past five weeks, including 162 military vehicles. On Thursday, the U.S. military said two additional strikes overnight destroyed two machine gun emplacements and a bunker near the Mosul Dam.

Anthony Cordesman, a defense analyst at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, said only about one-third of the Islamic State group force — which others have estimated may total 20,000 to 30,000 fighters — are highly skilled.

Wouldn't the campaign against the Islamic State group work better if the U.S. sent its own ground forces to Syria or Iraq?

In the short run, perhaps it would. The U.S. military showed in its 2003 invasion of Iraq, which captured Baghdad in less than a month of fighting, that it can overmatch any army in the Middle East. The problem is translating initial battlefield gains into a durable solution to problems that at their core are political, economic and social. Obama said in his speech Wednesday that Iraq and its neighbors are indispensable partners.

Iraq says France to join US airstrikes

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — France will join the U.S.-led airstrikes targeting extremists in Iraq as part of an expanding international effort to combat the Islamic State group, Iraq's new prime minister said after talks with the French president on Friday.

Haider al-Abadi's remarks came after talks with Francois Hollande, who was in Baghdad to bolster Iraq's new government as it struggles to unite the nation amid the rampage by the Islamic State group.

Al-Abadi spoke at a joint news conference with Hollande in Baghdad. Neither of the two leaders

provided details about the aerial campaign. Hollande added that France has delivered four arms shipments and 66 tons of humanitarian equipment to Iraq.

Hollande's trip, and a conference that Paris is hosting Monday on Iraq, are the first steps in a long-term effort against Islamic State militants.

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WAR ON TERRORISM

Militants: US military now has authority to target leaders

FROM FRONT PAGE

Although the conventional wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have essentially concluded, the United States is still battling al-Qaida affiliates in countries including Pakistan, Somalia and Yemen. None of those groups has been eradicated, or even degraded to a degree that would allow U.S. counterterrorism operations to end.

The only apparent exception to this pattern had been al-Qaida in Iraq, a group that was seen as virtually dismantled until its reincarnation as the Islamic State. After conquering parts of Syria and Iraq in the span of six months, and beheading two U.S. journalists, the group is again in U.S. crosshairs.

"We're not going to see an end to this in our lifetime," said Charles Wald, a retired Air Force general who oversaw the start of the air war in Afghanistan in 2001. Airstrikes and ground operations by allies can degrade the Islamic State and force it to surrender its territorial gains, Wald said. But "there isn't going to be any time where we all of a sudden can declare victory. This is what the world is going to be like for us for a long time."

A day after Obama's speech, U.S. intelligence officials said the CIA has completed a new assessment of the Islamic State's strengths, showing that it has more than doubled in size in recent months.

"CIA assesses the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) can muster between 20,000 and 31,500 fighters across Iraq and Syria, based on a new review of all-source intelligence reports from May to August, an increase from our previous assessment of at least 10,000 fighters," according to a CIA spokesman, using another name for the group, which he discussed on the condition of anonymity. "This new total reflects an increase in members because of stronger recruitment since June following battlefield successes and the declaration of a caliphate, greater battlefield activity, and additional intelligence."

At the same time, details of how the Pentagon will pursue the new offensive began to emerge. U.S. military officials said they have new authority to carry out strikes against the group's leaders, including Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, who earlier this year declared himself the head of a restored caliphate.

Such targets had been off-limits under the more narrow terms of an air campaign that Obama had described as a humanitarian effort to protect



IRAQI MEDIA CENTER OF THE ISLAMIC STATE GROUP/AP

Islamic State fighters wave the group's flag from a damaged display of a fighter jet following the battle for the Tabqa air base, in Raqqa, Syria.

members of religious minorities and also shield American diplomats from Islamic State fighters in Iraq.

Pentagon officials described their altered mission as a shift to offense from defense. "We're going to intensify our efforts inside Iraq, there's no question about that," said Adm. John Kirby, the Pentagon press secretary.

In remarks to reporters Thursday, Kirby declined to answer directly when asked whether the Pentagon now had a green light to hunt down individuals, but he said: "One of the ways you get at, and you destroy the capabilities of an enemy like ISIL is to be pretty aggressive against them. And that does include disrupting their ability to command and control, and to lead their own forces."

Kirby said the 475 additional U.S. troops that Obama ordered to Iraq will arrive over "the next week or so." Among them are a detachment of about 125 personnel who will operate armed U.S. surveillance aircraft for the first time from Irbil, the capital of the Kurdish region. Kirby said officials are still considering which types of aircraft to send to Irbil but said that the fleet will not include drones.

The campaign is aimed at a terrorist group whose rapid expansion and brutal tactics have alarmed Western security officials, although there is significant confusion and debate over how significant a threat it poses to the United States. The Islamic State has seized cities in Syria and northern Iraq and amassed cash and weapons at a rate eclipsing any al-Qaida rival. But so far it has not been tied to a transnational terror plot.

Obama conceded that point during his speech, but he warned of a growing danger if the Islamic State were left unchecked.

The group is a descendant of al-Qaida

in Iraq, a violent terrorist force founded by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi that sought to ignite a sectarian conflagration in that country before it was subdued by Sunni tribal leaders who were dismayed by its tactics and backed by U.S. cash and commando teams. The group's collapse was so complete that U.S. intelligence agencies estimated it had lost 95 percent of its membership and strength by the time U.S. forces left Iraq in 2011.

But the group's remnants relocated to Syria and took advantage of the chaos created by civil war there — as well as Sunni discontent with the Shiite-dominated government in Iraq — to regroup. This year, it severed ties with al-Qaida and rebranded itself the Islamic State.

"Defeating a group doesn't necessarily mean you will have been successful at eradicating every single person who was ever aligned with the group," Matt Olsen, the director of the National Counterterrorism Center, said during a recent briefing for reporters on the Islamic State.

Supporters of Obama said his terms were aimed to a large extent at preparing the nation for another extended conflict. "Rallying the public to a war effort is hard to do if you're only talking about degrading an enemy," said Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., a member of the House Intelligence Committee.

"Within a matter of years we can get to a point where ISIL no longer poses a significant threat to the homeland or region," Schiff said. "In terms of extinguishing it as a group that bears any resemblance to the Islamic State? That could take much longer."

Obama cited U.S. counterterrorism operations against al-Qaida affiliates in Yemen and Somalia as models for the strategy against the Islamic State. But the comparison is problematic because key factors in those countries don't exist in Syria, including effective allies on the ground and free rein for U.S. aircraft including armed drones.

House backs attacks, cool to funds for rebels

By Travis J. Tritten
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The future of President Barack Obama's proposal to arm Syrian rebels against the Islamic State remained uncertain in the House on Thursday as lawmakers emerged from a briefing on plans by top administration officials.

House members spoke of widespread support in the chamber for an offensive following a classified briefing by Chairman of the Joint Chiefs Gen. Martin Dempsey, but said the passage of a funding bill for Syrian opposition remains uncertain before many leave Washington for midterm election campaigning next week.

The White House maintains Obama has authority to wage much of the long-term fight unveiled Wednesday night that aims to defeat the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria through military strikes, training of opposition forces and assistance from an international coalition.

The administration has conceded it will need Congress' cooperation to fund Syrian rebel groups that have opposed the Islamist group during that country's three-year civil war.

"The question is, is there a group of people within Syria that can be vetted and proven reliable, that we can put our faith and trust in, to hold ground when we take it?" said Rep. Hal Rogers, R-Ky. "I'm not satisfied yet. We're still working on it."

Rogers, chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, said money for the effort could be included in the upcoming temporary budget bill, called a continuing resolution, if lawmakers support the effort. Congress had hoped to pass the continuing resolution this month as a stop-gap measure to keep the government running while an annual budget is hammered out.

Any funding for the Syrian rebels could be included in the continuing resolution but would need to be finalized and added into the resolution before the bill's passage deadline on Wednesday, Rogers said.

"I hope by next Wednesday we will come up with a procedure by which a good decision can take place on these powers," he said.

In June, Obama had proposed an annual overseas war budget that included \$500 million to arm and train Syrian groups the administration deems politically moderate. At the time, the plan was met with skepticism in Capitol Hill.

The new plan for offensives was welcomed Thursday by many in Congress, where lawmakers on both sides of the aisle had been calling for a more defined strategy and stronger action from Obama following a month of airstrikes and the beheading of two American journalists.

Rep. Adam Smith, D-Wash., ranking member on the House Armed Services Committee, said he supports arming and training the Syrian rebels but could not gauge overall support in the chamber.

"I support it ... it has got a strong possibility," Smith said.

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MILITARY

Diversity: General says Army plan for more black leaders is 'complicated'

FROM FRONT PAGE

Leading combat units is an essential ticket to the Army's brass ring. Gen. Ray Odierno, the Army's chief of staff, commanded artillery units. His predecessor, Gen. Martin Dempsey, led armor units, and is now the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

"The issue exists. The leadership is aware of it," says Brig. Gen. Ronald Lewis, the Army's chief of public affairs. Lewis is a helicopter pilot who has commanded at the battalion and brigade levels and is African-American. "The leadership does have an action plan in place. And it's complicated."

Among the complications: expanding the pool of minority candidates qualified to be officers, and helping them choose the right military jobs they'll need to climb the ranks, Lewis said.

To be sure, there are black officers who have attained four stars. Gen. Lloyd Austin, an infantry officer, leads Central Command, arguably the military's most critical combat command, as it oversees military operations in the Middle East. Another four-star officer, Gen. Vincent Brooks, leads U.S. Army Pacific, and Gen. Dennis Via runs Army Materiel Command, its logistics operative. The concern, however, is for Army's seed bed for four-star officers — the combat commands from which two-thirds of its generals are grown. They're unlikely to produce a diverse officer corps if candidates remain mostly white.

"It certainly is a problem for several reasons," said Col. Irving Smith, director of sociology at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Smith is also an African-American infantry officer who has served in Afghanistan. "First we are a public institution. And as a public institution, we certainly have a lot of a responsibility to our nation than a private company to reflect it. In order to maintain their trust and confidence, the people of America need to know that the Army is not only effective but representative of them."

Black officers at the top ranks of the brass show young minority officers that they can achieve. Their presence also signals to allies in emerging democracies like Afghanistan that inclusive leadership is important. Diverse leadership, research shows, is better able to solve complex problems such as those the Army confronted in Iraq and Afghanistan, Smith said.

"It comes down to effectiveness," Smith said. "Diversity and equal opportunity are important, but most people don't point out that it makes the Army more effective."

The problem

The Army's — and the Pentagon's — main ground fighting force remains the Army's infantry, armor and artillery units, although aviation and engineering units are also considered combat units. Many of their names have become familiar to the American



ANIESA HOLMES/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Command Sgt. Maj. Clyde A. Glenn, left, Maj. Gen. H. R. McMaster and Col. Ronald P. Clark case the colors for the 192nd Infantry Brigade during the discontinuance ceremony in June 2009 at the Parade Field at the National Infantry Museum in Columbus, Ga.

‘It comes down to effectiveness. Diversity and equal opportunity are important, but most people don't point out that it makes the Army more effective.’

Col. Irving Smith

Director of sociology at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point

public after more than a decade of war: The 101st Airborne Division, the 82nd Airborne Division, the 10th Mountain Division. They share a proud history of tough fights and multiple deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan. They also share a lack of black leaders. In all, eight of 10 of the Army's fighting divisions do not have black battalion commanders in their combat units.

For now, they also lack women. The military plans to open combat roles to women in 2016.

USA Today obtained the Army's list of battalion and brigade commanders. Several officers familiar with the personnel identified the black officers, which the Army refused to do. The paper considered officers in infantry, armor and field artillery — the three main combat-arms branches.

The results: In 2014, there is not a single black commander among its 25 brigades; there were three black commanders in its 80 battalion openings.

In 2015, there will be two black commanders of combat brigades; and one black commander among 78 battalion positions.

"It's command. If you don't command at the (lieutenant colonel) level, you're not going to command at the (colonel level)," said Army Col. Ron Clark, an

African-American infantry officer who has commanded platoon, company, battalion and brigade level. "If you don't command at the (colonel) level, you're not going to be a general officer."

Capt. Grancis Santana, 33, knows about the long odds he faces as an artillery officer hoping to become a colonel.

He found few black officers in his specialty about two of 20 when he was a lieutenant, and about three of 30 when he made captain.

"It's not a good feeling when you're one of the few," Santana said. "There was no discrimination; there are just not a lot of people like you."

A key reason is the paucity of black officers graduated by the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, its ROTC programs and Officer Candidate School.

For instance, the newly minted officer classes of 2012 and 2013 in combat arms remained mostly white, according to data released by the Army. Of the 238 West Point graduates commissioned to be infantry officers in 2012, 199 were white and seven were black. At Officer Candidate School, which accepts qualified enlisted soldiers and graduates with four-year degrees, 66 received commissions as infantry officers — 55 were white, none was black.

The figures remained nearly unchanged for 2013.

The downsizing of the Army is having a disproportional effect on African-American officers. From the pool of officers screened, almost 10 percent of eligible black majors are being dismissed from the Army compared with 5.6 percent of eligible white majors, USA Today reported in early August. The Army is cutting 550 majors and about 1,000 captains as it seeks to reduce its force to 490,000 soldiers by the end of 2015.

The causes

Two forces seem to reinforce the lack of black officers in combat command. For decades, young, black men have tended to choose other fields, including logistics. With fewer role models and mentors in combat specialties, those fields have been seen as less welcoming to African-American officers.

Irving Smith remembers his parents being "heartbroken" that he chose infantry.

"African-Americans have historically used the armed forces as a means of social mobility," said Smith, who joined the infantry, has risen to the rank of colonel and now is professor and director of sociology at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. "That is certainly true for African-Americans who have used the armed forces as a bridging opportunity (to new careers)."

Parents, pastors and coaches of young, black men and women considering the Army often don't encourage them to join the combat specialties.

"Why would you go in the in-

fantry?" Smith said of a common question. "Why would you want to run around in the woods and jump out of airplanes, things that have no connection to private businesses? Do transportation. Do logistics. That will provide you with transferable skills."

Developing marketable skills has been a key motivation for many African-Americans, said David Segal, a military sociologist at the University of Maryland. That has often meant driving a truck, not a tank.

"There has been a trend among African-Americans who do come into the military to gravitate to career fields that have transfer value — that pretty much excludes the combat arms," Segal said.

Clark, who now works at the Pentagon, wasn't encouraged initially to join the infantry. His father enlisted in 1964 and had an Army career in food service.

"He grew up in a small town in southern Louisiana in the middle of Jim Crow South," Clark said. "He was tired of having someone telling him where to sit on a bus, which water fountain to drink from and which bathroom he could use."

At age 11, the younger Clark remembers climbing onto a tank when the family was stationed in Grafenwöhr, Germany. The U.S. invasion of Grenada in 1983 sealed the deal for him: He wanted to be infantryman.

"I wanted to be an Airborne Ranger in a tree," Clark said, "and my dad was not having it. He said, 'Nope, you are not going following my footsteps. I want you to go to college.'"

SEE DIVERSITY ON PAGE 7

MILITARY



RYAN GARZA, DETROIT FREE PRESS/AP

Memorial groundbreaking

Members of the 1st Battalion 24th Marines Regiment Color Guard of Selfridge, Mich., stand by as major contributors prepare to grab their shovels during a groundbreaking ceremony on Thursday for the 1st Battalion 24th Marines Regiment Memorial in Chesterfield Township, Mich. The memorial is to remember 22 Marines killed during the 2006-07 deployment to Iraq. Organizers have raised \$80,000 for the memorial, and need to raise \$70,000 more.

Diversity: Plan urges recruitment, mentoring

FROM PAGE 6

The compromise, after his father had him speak with an African-American brigade executive officer named Larry Ellis, was to enroll at West Point. Ellis went on to become a four-star general, and Clark graduated from the academy in 1988.

Clark and Irving remain exceptional cases.

The Army's response

The problem has attracted attention at the Army's highest ranks. In March, Army Secretary John McHugh and Odierno, the chief of staff, issued a directive aimed at diversifying the leadership of its combat units.

USA Today obtained a copy of the memo, which notes that the Army historically has drawn the majority of its generals from combat fields, specifically "Infantry, Armor and Field Artillery." For at least two decades, however, young, minority officers have not selected those fields in the numbers necessary to produce enough generals.

"African-Americans have the most limited preference in combat arms, followed by Hispanic and Asian Pacific officers," the memo states. While black officers make up 12 percent of Army officers in all competitive specialties, they make up just 7 percent of the Army's infantry, armor and artillery officers. For junior officers, that figure is lower: 6 percent.

Minority groups need a "critical mass" of about 15 percent to feel they have a voice, Smith says.

The Army's plan calls for enhanced recruiting and mentoring for minority officers, particularly in combat fields, tracking their progress and encouraging

mentoring.

Mentors needn't be of the same race, Clark and Lewis said. Lewis noted that several of his closest mentors were white officers, including retired Gen. Richard

Cody, who retired as Army vice chief of staff. Cody advised him to spend time at the Army's National Training Center in the California desert. It paid off, Lewis said.

A directive by Army leaders notes that for at least two decades young, minority officers have not selected combat fields in the numbers necessary to produce enough generals.

"Every one does not have to look like you," Lewis said. "You have to be able to receive mentorship, leadership. And you have to follow some of that. You may have to spend some time at a really hard place for a bit."

Byron Bagby, a retired African-American two-star artillery officer, applauds the Army for acknowledging the problem and taking steps to address it. He cautions progress will be slow. Bagby retired in 2011 from a top post with NATO in the Netherlands.

"We're not going to solve this tomorrow, or a year from now," Bagby said.

Smith has another suggestion for the Army. Ask an in-house expert: him.

The brass could also stop by his office for a chat, he said.

"I've never had anybody from the Department of the Army come to me. I'm a sociologist. I've studied these issues for six years."

General outlines plans for Army Cyber Command

BY WESLEY BROWN

The Augusta (Ga.) Chronicle

AUGUSTA, Ga. — The commanding general of the Army Cyber Command said this week that his team expects to break ground next year on a defense network at Fort Gordon that will work with private technology firms and the federal departments of justice and homeland security.

Speaking before a crowd of more than 500 people at TechNet Augusta's second annual military conference on Tuesday, Lt. Gen. Edward Cardon provided the first public details on how the Army Cyber Command will function at Fort Gordon.

Cardon said his command will organize its operations through the Defense Department's Information Network and will guard its work with a protective tier of sensors, firewalls and perimeter devices.

The next layer, which he described as "groundbreaking work," will target specific threats and focus on creating missions to diffuse enemy operations.

Cardon could not share much

about the third and final level of the new network, citing classified information, but said it primarily will involve "offensive cyberspace operations."



Cardon

"We are absolutely dependent on this network," Cardon said during his keynote address. "As the Army gets smaller, we are going to use the network to enable our forces to look bigger than they are on a global level."

Cardon said he has yet to move to Augusta but expects his command, along with the Cyber Center of Excellence and related missions, to be up and running in the area in four years.

With cyberspace attacks increasing in volume and complexity, Cardon said his command needs employees specialized in data analysis to help combat threats.

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NATION

Feds threatened Yahoo with fine over emails

By PETE YOST

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON—Yahoo's free email service could have cost the company an extra quarter of a million dollars per day.

The government called for the huge fine in 2008 if Yahoo didn't go along with an expansion of U.S. surveillance by surrendering online information, a step the company regarded as unconstitutional. At stake, according to the government, was the nation's security.

"International terrorists, and (retracted) in particular, use

Yahoo to communicate over the Internet," the director of national intelligence at the time, Mike McConnell, said in a court document supporting the government's position. "Any further delay in Yahoo's compliance could cause great harm to the United States, as vital foreign intelligence information contained in communications to which only Yahoo has access, will go uncollected."

The outlines of Yahoo's secret and ultimately unsuccessful court fight against government surveillance emerged when a federal judge ordered the unsealing of some material about Yahoo's

court challenge. Sections of some of the documents were redacted, such as the names of the terrorists McConnell cited.

In a statement Thursday, Yahoo said the government amended a law to demand user information from online services, prompting a challenge in 2007 during the George W. Bush administration.

"Our challenge, and a later appeal in the case, did not succeed," Yahoo general counsel Ron Bell said.

The new material about the case underscores "how we had to fight every step of the way to challenge the U.S. government's

surveillance efforts," Bell added. "At one point, the U.S. government threatened the imposition of \$250,000 in fines per day if we refused to comply."

Bell said the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court upheld the predecessor to Section 702 of the FISA Amendments Act. Section 702 refers to the program called PRISM, which gave the government access to online communications by users of Yahoo.

Former National Security Agency systems analyst Edward Snowden disclosed the program last year.

Yahoo said it is committed to

protecting users' data and that it will continue to contest requests and laws that it considers unlawful, unclear or overly broad.

"We consider this an important win for transparency, and hope that these records help promote informed discussion about the relationship between privacy, due process and intelligence gathering," Bell said.

The newly released documents show that the Bush administration was taking a hard line and was miffed that Yahoo had even been allowed to get into court with its complaint.

Escaped school shooter recaptured near Ohio prison

By MARK GILLISPIE

AND JOHN SEEWER

The Associated Press

LIMA, Ohio—A teenager convicted of killing three students at an Ohio high school scrambled over a fence to escape a state prison with two other prisoners and was captured nearly six hours later hiding by a church early Friday, authorities said.

T.J. Lane, 19, was caught only about 100 yards from the prison by two State Highway Patrol troopers at 1:20 a.m. A second prisoner had been caught almost immediately after the Thursday night escape, and troopers apprehended the third three hours after finding Lane.



Lane

Nearly 200 miles to the east, Lane's brief taste of freedom frightened residents in Garden, the community outside of Cleveland where Lane fatally shot three students and wounded two others. At his sentencing hearing last year, Lane unbuttoned a dress shirt to reveal a T-shirt scrawled with the word "Killer." He wore a similar shirt during the shootings. He cursed and made an obscene gesture as the judge gave him three consecutive

life sentences.

Police officers were sent late Thursday to guard the homes of the families of Lane's victims, while school officials huddled and ultimately decided to cancel classes Friday and made counseling available for students and the larger community.

"The last several hours have been very difficult as we come to grips with this situation," Chardon schools superintendent Michael Hanlon said at a news conference early Friday after Lane was caught.

The escape occurred at Allen Oakwood Correctional Institution, a minimum- and medium-security prison in Lima about 80 miles south of Toledo. Asked why a convicted killer was not at a more secure prison, warden Kevin Jones said: "That will be something we'll have to sit down and look at."

Jones said he saw Lane after he was captured and that the teen did not say anything. An investigation is underway to determine how the men, who were outside for recreation, managed to climb over the prison's perimeter fence, the warden said.

Authorities wouldn't say whether Lane and the other two prisoners planned their escapes together. A spokeswoman for the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction said Lane did not resist when troopers found him.



JOE SHINE, THE (SECAUCUS, N.J.) JERSEY JOURNAL/AP

Children from the Growing Tree Learning Center II day care center in Jersey City, N.J., are taken to an EMT bus to be brought to the Jersey City Medical Center on Thursday after accidentally ingesting a mixture of water and bleach.

Children accidentally drink bleach mixture at NJ day care

The Associated Press

JERSEY CITY, N.J.—More than two dozen children and two adults accidentally drank a mixture of bleach and water at a day care center Thursday and were briefly hospitalized.

The Jersey City Fire Department told WABC-TV a substitute teacher's aide at Growing Tree Learning Center II in Jersey City was giving students water when she mistakenly used a bottle that had water and a little bleach in it.

A spokesman for Jersey City Medical Center-Barnabas Health

said the hospital received a call a few minutes before 11 a.m. Several ambulances were sent, and other emergency crews also responded.

"Somebody made a mistake and they were trying to give the children water but then they realized it was mixed with bleach," JCMC dispatcher Barbara Allen, who took the 911 call, told the Jersey Journal.

Hospital spokesman Mark Rabson said 28 3- and 4-year-olds and two adults were treated, most complaining of lightheadedness, mild nausea and stomachaches.

The hospital contacted a national poison control center for guidance and treated the patients by giving them liquids rather than inducing vomiting, as a precaution, Rabson said. All the children and adults had been released by 3 p.m.

A spokesman for the state Department of Children and Families, which licenses the center, said the agency is investigating.

Sandra Vasquez, the center's executive director, didn't immediately respond to a phone message Thursday afternoon.

Nevada governor enacts Tesla 'gigafactory' tax break package

By SCOTT SONNER

The Associated Press

CARSON CITY, Nev.—Calling it one of the most important pieces of legislation in Nevada history, Gov. Brian Sandoval signed into law an unprecedented package of incentives to seal a deal to bring Tesla Motors' \$5 billion battery

factory to the Silver State.

The "gigafactory" is expected to bring more than 20,000 jobs and \$100 billion to Nevada's economy during the next 20 years. It will be the biggest lithium battery factory in the world and is critical to the electric car-maker's plans to begin mass marketing a more affordable line of the vehicles

within three years.

One lawmaker said it was the most important development in Nevada since the construction of the Hoover Dam southeast of Las Vegas during the Great Depression.

"It doesn't get any bigger than this," Sandoval said as he put his signature to four bills late Thurs-

day night, shortly after the state Legislature unanimously approved the package that includes tax credits and other incentives worth up to \$1.3 billion.

"This is some of the most important legislation that's hit this state in perhaps our history," the Republican governor said. "We have changed the trajectory of

this state, perhaps forever."

Under the biggest piece of the package providing up to \$1.1 billion in tax abatements, California-based Tesla would pay no property taxes or payroll taxes for up to 10 years and no local sales or use taxes for up to 20 years. Another \$195 million in tax credits were also approved.

NATION

Museum traces Star-Spangled Banner fragments

By BRETT ZONKER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — If you happen to find some remnants of woven wool in your attic—in red, white or blue and marked Fort McHenry—the Smithsonian Institution would like to know.

Two hundred years after a massive flag was hoisted over the fort in Baltimore that withstood a British attack, Americans from Maine to California may still have fragments from the original “Star-Spangled Banner.”

Not long after the huge, 30-foot-by-42-foot flag inspired an 1814 poem by Francis Scott Key that would become the national anthem, its caretakers began snipping off pieces.

By the 1880s, about 20 percent had been lost.

Cutting up a flag today could be considered desecration, but back then, the clippings were given away as keepsakes.

“It was such a monumental moment in time that people felt they wanted to hold a piece of that history,” said Jennifer Jones, a curator who oversees the flag at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History.

The Star-Spangled Banner is showing its age now, but the Smithsonian carefully preserved it for display. Housed in a chamber that keeps oxygen and lighting very low and temperature and humidity constant, it should last

for generations more.

And lest we be too harsh on our forebears, Jones credits the revolutionary-era tradition of souvenir-keeping for maintaining the flag’s value, which “probably led to its ability to survive 200 years.”

With Maryland celebrating its Defenders’ Day on Friday and America’s victory over the British 200 years ago Sunday, at least two families recently inquired whether their fragments might have historical value.

Museum conservators are using microscopes, X-rays and other equipment to analyze their weaves, stains and soils to see if they match. Family histories and documents also help prove provenance.

Since the flag came to the Smithsonian in 1907, about 17 pieces have been donated or bought at auction. The museum last acquired pieces in 2003 but has no plans to try to recover them all or reattach them to the original flag.

It’s difficult to determine exactly where each piece came from, and the Smithsonian wants to lend pieces to other museums.

But some are more valuable than others. The 15th cotton star was cut away sometime before 1873, and remains missing.

“We’d love to have that back,” said the flag’s chief conservator Suzanne Thomassen-Krauss. “That one I might put back on.”

3 infant bodies found in squalid Mass. home

The Associated Press

BLACKSTONE, Mass. — A search was underway Friday at a squalid home where the bodies of three infants were found among vermin and piles of soiled diapers, and authorities had not ruled out the possibility that more bodies may be inside, a prosecutor said.

Detectives investigating a case of reckless endangerment of children found the bodies Thursday at the house in Blackstone, about 50 miles southwest of Boston along the Rhode Island border.

Worcester District Attorney Joseph Early Jr. said the house was in “deplorable condition.” He said authorities don’t know when or how the babies died, nor their ages and genders. No criminal charges have been filed in connection with the deaths.

The search of the home, which is just a couple of hundred feet away from the town’s police station, is expected to take several days, Early said.

Four other children, including a 6-month-old, were removed from

the house in August after a neighbor notified police about their living conditions, Early said. Those children are in state custody.

A woman who lives at the home was arrested on charges related to the living conditions there, according to police. Prosecutors said Erika Murray, 31, was to be arraigned Friday on charges including intimidation of a witness. It was not immediately known whether she had an attorney.

Investigators working in the small house were wearing hazardous material suits.

“The house is filled with vermin,” the prosecutor said. “We have flies. We have bugs. We have used diapers, in some areas, as much as a foot-and-a-half to 2 feet high. The house is in a deplorable condition.”

Early said children, ages 13, 10, 3 and 6 months old, were removed from the house Aug. 28. The prosecutor said one of them approached a neighbor about a child who wouldn’t stop crying. Early said the 6-month-old was found covered with feces, lying on a bed.



PHOTOS BY GREGORY BULL/AP

Cab driver Martin Salami talks about new ordinances facing drivers at a depot near the airport Wednesday in San Diego.

San Diego cabbies cry foul over body odor test

By ELLIOT SPAGAT
The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Body odor is among 52 criteria that officials at San Diego International Airport use to judge taxi drivers. Cabbies say that smacks of prejudice and discrimination.

For years, inspectors with the San Diego Regional Airport Authority run down their checklist for each cabbie — proof of insurance, functioning windshield wipers, adequate tire treads, good brakes. Drivers are graded pass, fail or needs fixing.

Anyone who flunks the smell test is told to change before picking up another customer.

Leaders of the United Taxi Workers of San Diego union say the litmus perpetuates a stereotype that predominantly foreign-born taxi drivers smell bad. A 2013 survey of 331 drivers by San Diego State University and Center on Policy Initiatives found 94 percent were immigrants and 65 percent were from East Africa.

Drivers wonder how inspectors determine who reeks. Driver Abel Seifu, 36, from Ethiopia, suspects they sniff inconspicuously during friendly conversations in the staging area. Airport authority spokeswoman Rebecca Bloomfield said there is “no standard process” to testing.

Other drivers question how inspectors distinguish between them and their cars. The checklist has a separate item for a vehicle’s “foul interior odors,” which Bloomfield may include gasoline, vomit or mildew.

“If they want to bring their smell detector, they can use it to



A cab driver waits near his car in line near the San Diego airport Wednesday. Some drivers say airport inspectors’ practice of judging how taxi drivers smell may lead to discrimination against immigrants.

test the customers and the drivers,” said driver Negus Gebrenarian, 39, from Ethiopia. He, like other drivers, said the stench is just as likely to come from the backseat as it is from the front.

The airport authority says it is enforcing a policy of the San Diego Metropolitan Transit System, which regulates taxis throughout the region, that prohibits foul-smelling drivers and promotes regular bathing. It also says the practice is about satisfying customers.

“Taxi drivers are often the first impression that travelers receive when arriving into San Diego and we want to encourage a positive experience,” Bloomfield said. Only about three drivers fail to get a passing grade each year, she said.

Inspectors have been smelling drivers for years. There was no controversy until a union employee waded through a 568-page airport board agenda and noticed the checklist, which had been approved in July for revisions unrelated to the body odor test. KPBS reported on the practice last week.

San Diego’s policy appears to be unusually explicit about sniffing out smelly cabbies. Chicago requires that drivers be “clean and neat in their appearance,” New York City’s wording is similarly broad.

Seattle long evaluated cabbies for body odor associated with infrequent bathing and not washing clothes but dropped that test last month for a more general requirement on cleanliness.

WORLD

Ukraine, rebels trade 67 prisoners in peace deal

By PETER LEONARD
The Associated Press

DONETSK, Ukraine — In the dead of night, Ukrainian troops and Russian-backed rebel forces on Friday exchanged dozens of prisoners who had been captured during fighting in eastern Ukraine, part of a cease-fire deal that has struggled to succeed.

The transfer took place in the dark outside of the main rebel stronghold of Donetsk under the watch of international observers.

Thirty-six Ukrainian servicemen were released after negotiations, Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko said. Ukrainian forces handed over 31 pro-Russian rebels detained during the five-month conflict, some of them Russian citizens.

The cease-fire took effect a

week ago but has been routinely violated. Shortly after the prisoner exchange, a volley of rocket fire was heard in Donetsk.

The group of Ukrainian servicemen was driven away from local rebel headquarters about 1:30 a.m. and was taken several miles north of Donetsk, where they were met by Ukrainian military officials.

The two sets of captives were brought out wearing handcuffs, which were removed as they were handed over. One representative from each side checked each prisoner against a list and crossed out their name as they were freed.

Hundreds of prisoners are believed to be held by both sides, although no firm figure has been provided by either.

"There is an ongoing process of

talks. We are meeting each other's demands and fulfilling our promises," said Yuriy Tandt, a negotiator for the government.

Darya Morozova, who is overseeing the prisoner exchange for the separatists, said she estimates about 1,200 rebels and their supporters are being detained by Ukrainian authorities. She said the rebels were holding several hundred Ukrainian troops, but when asked for an exact figure, she would only say it was "up to 1,000" people.

Morozova claimed the rebel prisoners had been poorly treated and some had not been fed for about two weeks. Another transfer of prisoners is expected in the next three days, she said.

Some of the separatists freed Friday were Russian citizens.

EU sanctions hit Russia oil companies, officials

The Associated Press

BRUSSELS — New European Union sanctions against Russia announced Friday toughen financial penalties on the country's banks, arms makers and its biggest oil company, to punish Moscow for what the West sees as efforts to destabilize Ukraine.

The EU measures, details of which were released Friday after a preliminary agreement Thursday, broaden the scope of previous penalties. The United States was also expected to announce new sanctions Friday.

The EU measures include: ■ Further limits to some Russian companies' ability to raise money in EU markets. The restrictions now apply not only to banks but also to major oil company Rosneft, defense companies, pipeline operator Transneft, the oil subsidiary of energy giant Gazprom and others.

■ Broader limits on the export of high-technology EU goods that could also be used for military purposes.

■ Travel bans and asset freezes for another 24 officials. They include four deputy Parliament speakers and leaders of the separatists in eastern Ukraine. Also hit is businessman Sergei Chemezov, who is one of President Vladimir Putin's "close associates," according to the EU.

■ Bans for EU companies on new contracts in oil drilling, exploration and related services in Russia's Arctic, deep sea and shale oil projects. Russia's Rosneft oil company is majority-owned by the state, but Britain's BP holds a 19.75 percent stake in it.

Conspicuously absent from the list was Russia's gas industry, because many EU nations depend on Russian gas imports.

Detainees in North Korea test US patience strategy

By ERIC TALMADGE
The Associated Press

TOKYO — A U.S. citizen arrested in North Korea for allegedly tearing up his visa and seeking asylum will go before the North's Supreme Court this weekend in a trial almost certain to end quickly with a guilty verdict. Along with two other Americans detained in the North, the young defendant says he has but one hope — for a senior U.S. statesman to come get him out.

So far, there doesn't seem to be any volunteers. North Korea's state media has announced that Matthew Miller, in custody since April, will be put on trial on Sunday. The punishment could range from forgiveness and deportation to a lengthy sentence in prison with hard labor.

A trial is also expected for Jeffrey Fowle, who entered the North as a tourist but was arrested in May for leaving a Bible at a provincial club. The third man is Korean-American missionary Kenneth Bae, who is serving a 15-year sentence for

alleged "hostile acts."

The U.S. has repeatedly offered to send its envoy for North Korean human rights issues, Robert King, to Pyongyang to seek the freedom of the detainees, but without success. High-level visits have become the norm for securing the release of past detainees.

Former President Bill Clinton came in 2009 to free a couple of jailed journalists. Jimmy Carter made the trip in 2010 to secure the release of Aijalon Gomes, who had been sentenced to eight years of hard labor for illegally crossing into the country to do missionary work. In 2011, the State Department's envoy for North Korean human rights managed to successfully intervene in the case of Korean-American businessman Eddie Yong Su Jun.

But finding a suitable middleman is no easy task, with the Obama administration immersed in bigger global crises and doggedly pursuing a policy of "strategic patience" with the North, which essentially



WONG MAYE-E/AP

Jeffrey Fowle, an American detained in North Korea, speaks to the Associated Press in Pyongyang, North Korea, on Sept. 1.

means not getting drawn into engagements that might be seen as bowing to North Korean pressure.

"North Korea's strategy may have worked in the past, but its brinkmanship with the American hostages is occurring against the backdrop of so many other crises that North Korea cannot use this issue to elevate itself as Washington's primary concern," said Scott Snyder, director of the program on U.S.-Korea policy at the Washington D.C.-based Council on Foreign Relations think tank.

Snyder said Washington would find it hard to accept if the North linked releasing the Americans to the broader negotiations about its nuclear weapons program.

While having a senior U.S. statesman take detainees home has been used by the North to enhance the prestige of its leadership on the domestic stage, he said, "it causes headaches for sitting administrations, who do not want to risk losing control of the policy by having outsiders to their administration step into the picture."



Miller



Bae

China finds 4 guilty for deadly train station knife attack

The Associated Press

BEIJING — A Chinese court sentenced three men to death and a woman to life imprisonment on Friday after convicting them of terrorism and murder for killing 31 people in a knife attack outside a railway station in the southern city of Kunming earlier this year.

The convictions were expected when the Kunming Intermediate People's Court opened the trials of the four just hours earlier in the day, with state television showing armed police inside the courtroom.

The railway station attack in March shook the country as tensions between the Uighur Muslim

minority and the majority Han ethnic group spread beyond the Uighur homeland of Xinjiang. The court did not identify the suspects' ethnicity, but all have Uighur-sounding names.

The defendants showed no emotion during the trial. The three men sentenced to death, Iskandar Ehet, Turgun Tohtun-

yaz and Hasayn Muhammad, had been charged with organizing and leading a terror group and murder.

The woman, Patigul Tohti, the only assailant captured alive at the scene of the attack, was convicted on the charges of joining a terror group and murder. The court said Tohti could not be sen-

tenced to death because she was pregnant.

The Kunming court said the suspects, influenced by religious fundamentalism, were part of a terror group that plotted the March 1 attack, when five knife-wielding assailants hacked 31 people to death and injured another 141 people.

WORLD



DAR YASIN/AP

A group of men help others cross a flooded street on a makeshift raft in Srinagar in Indian-controlled Kashmir on Friday.

Pakistani troops expand rescue in flood-hit areas

By ZAKAR KHAN AND ASHOK SHARMA
The Associated Press

ISLAMABAD — The Pakistani military stepped up rescue efforts as floods wreaked havoc in more districts of the country's eastern Punjab province on Friday, leaving hundreds of thousands a people homeless.

In neighboring India-controlled Kashmir, meanwhile, flood waters started receding but triggered concerns of possible spread of disease in the devastated areas.

The floods, which began Sept. 3 in both sections of the divided Kashmir, have so far killed 264 people in Pakistan and the Pakistan-administered Kashmir while 200

have died in the India-controlled part of the disputed region.

Another wave of flooding is expected to hit southern Pakistan next week.

After destroying hundreds of villages in the Jhang district this week, the floods on Friday hit three more Punjab districts — Multan, Bahawalpur and Rahim Yar Khan. Troops air-dropped food rations as three more deaths were registered there, according to disaster management spokeswoman Reema Zuberi.

The Pakistani army said its helicopters were plucking people from rooftops and air-dropping food in flood-hit areas. So far, the military rescued 29,295 people by helicopters and boats, while 47,963 were

rescued by civilian rescue services, said Ali Imam Syed, an official with emergency services in eastern Punjab.

In neighboring India, officials said their military and private doctors set up medical camps to treat flood-affected people in India's part of Kashmir, where water-borne diseases like cholera and diarrhea were reported.

Shakila Butt, who runs the Al Ameen hospital in the Indian part of Kashmir, appealed to authorities and nongovernmental organizations to supply medicines as she expected an influx of patients in the coming days.

"There are chances of epidemic diseases," she said.

Hamas: 'Mistakes' were made in Gaza war

By HAMZA HENDAWI
AND JOSEF FEDERMAN
The Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — Two weeks after the end of the Gaza war, there is growing evidence that Hamas militants used residential areas as cover for launching rockets at Israel, at least at times. Even Hamas now admits "mistakes" were made.

But Hamas says it had little choice in Gaza's crowded urban landscape, took safeguards to keep people away from the fighting, and that a heavy-handed Israeli response is to blame for the deaths of hundreds of Palestinian civilians.

"Gaza, from Beit Hanoun in the north to Rafah in the south, is one uninterrupted urban chain that Israel has turned into a war zone," said Ghazi Hamad, a senior Hamas official in Gaza.

Increasingly, the discussion is not about whether the Hamas rockets were fired from civilian areas, but exactly how close they were to the actual buildings.

"The Israelis kept saying rockets were fired from schools or hospitals when in fact they were fired 200 or 300 meters (yards) away. Still, there were some mistakes made and they were quickly dealt with," Hamad told The Associated Press, offering the first acknowledgment by a Hamas official that, in some cases, militants fired rockets from or near residential areas or civilian facilities.

The questions lie at the heart of a brewing international legal confrontation: Did Hamas deliberately and systematically fire rockets at Israel from homes, hospitals and schools in the hope that Israel would be deterred from retaliating, as Israel claims? Or did Israel use force excessively, resulting in deaths among people not involved in combat operations?

The answers could help determine whether Israel — or Hamas — or both are ultimately accused of violating the international laws of war in a conflict that caused tremendous damage.

According to Palestinian figures, nearly 2,200 Palestinians were killed — roughly three quarters of them civilians and including more than 500 children — and 11,000 were wounded. The war also left some 100,000 homeless. Seventy-two people were killed on the Israeli side, including six civilians.

Ahead of a U.N. investigation, the Israeli military has released reams of evidence, including satellite photos and aerial footage, to support its claims that it acted responsibly and attempted to minimize Palestinian casualties. It asserts that Hamas made no effort to disguise its attempt to maximize Israeli civilian casualties.

Throughout the war, the Israeli air force compiled dozens of video clips showing alleged wrongdoing by Hamas, an Islamic militant group sworn to Israel's destruction.

These videos, many of them posted on YouTube, appear to show rockets flying out of residential neighborhoods, cemeteries, schoolyards and mosque courtyards. There are also images of weapons caches purportedly uncovered inside mosques, and tunnels allegedly used by militants to scurry between homes, mosques and buildings.

More than 5,000 killed in Central African Republic since December

The Associated Press

GUEN, Central African Republic — More than 5,000 people have died in sectarian violence in Central African Republic since December, according to an Associated Press tally, suggesting that a U.N. peacekeeping mission approved months ago is coming too late for thousands.

The AP found at least 5,186 people were killed in fighting between Muslims and Christians, based on a count of bodies and numbers gathered from survivors, priests, imams and aid workers in more than 50 of the hardest-hit communities. That's more than double the death toll of at least 2,000 cited by the United Nations in April, when it approved the mission. There has been no official count since.

U.N. peacekeepers prepare to take over from African forces on Monday, bringing about 2,000 extra troops to the country. It will fall short of the almost 7,000 more that were authorized in April, with the rest expected by early 2015. Yet violence in the Central African Republic has only spread since.

"The international community said it wanted to put a stop to the genocide that was in the making. But months later, the war has not stopped," said Joseph Bindum, president of the Central African Human Rights League. "On the contrary, it has gotten worse."

It has taken months simply to gather troops from different countries for the mission launch on Sept. 15, especially with poor infrastructure in landlocked terrain, said Stephane Dujarric, spokesperson for the U.N. Secretary-General.

"Mobilizing troops for peacekeeping mission takes time because it's not like they're waiting in New York for us," Dujarric said Wednesday. "We have to go knock on doors for troops, for equipment, helicopters..."

Many deaths in this country of about 4.6 million were never officially counted, especially in a vast, remote swath of the west that is still dangerous and can barely be reached in torrential rains. Other deaths were overlooked by overwhelmed aid workers but registered at mosques and at private Christian funerals. Even the AP tally is almost certainly a fraction of the true death toll.



A handwritten list names the people slain in the town of Sibut, Central African Republic, by Muslim rebels earlier this year as recorded by Red Cross officials.

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OPINION

Domestic abuse debate has few women

By KAVITHA A. DAVIDSON

Bloomberg News

The Ray and Janay Rice story has transcended sports media into the mainstream, featured everywhere from "Good Morning America" to "Fox & Friends." But no matter the outlet, one thing has remained consistent: The conversation has been dominated by men. I'm not naive — men dominate the airwaves, especially in news and talk shows. The picture is even more stark in sports journalism, which remains roughly 90 percent male and 90 percent white. Back in July, The Washington Post's Paul Farhi wrote that while pundits drive the sports talk industry, women's voices are glaringly absent. "Don't women have opinions, too?" he asked.

Yes, we do, and they matter now more than ever. Farhi's column was in response to the suspension of ESPN's Stephen A. Smith's after his twisted comment that a woman should not "provoke" a man into beating her. Well, Smith is at it again — you didn't think the *Worldwide Leader* would muzzle their buzz machine for too long, did you?

On Wednesday morning's "First Take," news broke that the National Organization for Women had called for NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell's resignation — a completely legitimate demand that many, many others have previously taken. (While I don't think that's particularly realistic — even given the Associated Press bombshell that the league did apparently have video of Rice striking his fiancée in the elevator — I did call for a woman-led independent disciplinary body within the NFL, which *NOW* President Terry O'Neill seemed to advocate in her statement.)

Smith had what can only be described

as a meltdown. "I'm sorry, I think this woman is off her rocker. I think she's lost her mind," Smith said. "This is the most ridiculous nonsense I've ever heard in my life. Roger Goodell deserves to lose his job? Why are you acting like he's Ray Rice? Roger Goodell didn't hit Janay Palmer. He hasn't hit any women. And by the way ... why are we talking about the NFL as if it's some cesspool for domestic violence? There's a few cases. It's being dealt with."

The worst part of the clip isn't Smith's complete indignation over a reasonable opinion also held by many people who don't happen to lead a woman's advocacy group. It's not even his complete ignorance, willful or otherwise, of the facts concerning the NFL's rampant problem with domestic violence. It's Cari Champion, the show's host, being relegated to the position of asking questions of commentators Smith and Skip Bayless without the opportunity to tell us what she thinks.

On Tuesday, *Go Sports'* Katie Nolan addressed the dilemma she, too, faces as a both a female football fan and member of the sports media. She dismissed the idea of boycotting the league as unrealistic, and instead proposed giving women, particularly women in the press, a more prominent role in the discussion.

"It's time for the conversation to change, or at least those participating in the conversation," Nolan said. "It's time for women to have a seat at the Big Boy table, and not where their presence is a gimmick or a concept, just a person, who happens to have breasts, offering their opinion on the sports they care about the topics they know. Because the truth is the NFL will never respect women and their opinions as long as the media it answers to doesn't."

her personal pain. Domestic violence hotlines are ringing like never before since that video hit the world.

"We've had a big increase in calls from women. A lot of them are calling to get into support groups, to get counseling or to get away," said Sarah Jones, the office manager at the Family Crisis Center of Prince George's County, Md.

The women in his shelter — which is almost always at capacity with its 55 beds full — are watching the news, seeing the video and seeing themselves.

Some are taking steps to blocking out the blows, explaining away the bruises. It takes an average of seven attacks before a woman leaves her abuser, Jones said.

Advocates are hoping that this video — which for some survivors was like seeing their abuse in a mirror — helps women make those calls after the fifth, the third or maybe even the first time. And for the women who did run, it makes explaining it a whole lot easier.

And they are hoping it also shows the world that the hit-stay-hit cycle knows nothing about class or money.

"People from all over the world and all nationalities come here for help," Jones said. "We have police officers, managers, social workers. All kinds of people."

That's a change. Because silence was the solution when Jones was growing up, especially when an attacker was otherwise an upstanding member of society.

"Back when we were growing up, if you were hit, you go home to your parents and they say, 'What did you do to that boy? He's hardworking. He's putting a roof over your head,' and you know he's hard-hitting, too," Jones said. "They sent you back, told you to go back to him and try harder."

Women are always blaming themselves.

I've been critical about the roles to which female sports journalists have been relegated. By and large, we're either side-line reporters or segment side pieces, meant to facilitate conversation between men while remaining on the fringes of the discussion. But as a Change.org petition notes, NFL Network, ESPN, Fox Sports and other prominent national news outlets have plenty of intelligent women whose perspective has never been more valuable than it is now.

That doesn't mean the male perspective isn't valuable. Male commentators have had some of the most heartfelt and intelligent reactions to this incident. And men are often overlooked when it comes to domestic violence, both as children of abused women and as victims themselves.

But women still carry most of the burden of intimate-partner and sexual violence, and their perspectives should be present. It's even worse with victims who are from minority groups, who are not only disproportionately affected by domestic violence but also face unique institutional barriers to recovery, such as lack of health care. We need to hear what the Carl Champions and Pam Olivers and Erin Andrewes and Jemelle Hills think, too.

Just as the league would benefit from having more female executives, so, too would the national conversation benefit from a diversity of voices. As many as 1 in 4 women experience domestic violence at some point in their lives; a panel featuring women is likely to have a survivor among them. That could go a long way to helping sports fans understand a complicated crime, so we stop asking the wrong questions and move the discussion forward.

Kavitha A. Davidson writes about sports for Bloomberg View.

Janay Rice's pain may help other women escape

That's what Janay Rice did. And the NFL, Ravens executives and the rest of America helped her with that.

Janay married him, so how bad could he be? She was kicking and spitting — she was attacking him, too!

Abused women try to fix the situation, and the closed doors help them do it.

"Most of the time, women think: 'What can I do to keep this from happening again?'" Vaughan said. "Abusers tell her, 'You didn't get dinner on the table, you didn't clean this up, you didn't do this or didn't do that.' And the woman thinks: 'If I can just be more perfect, maybe he'll leave me alone.'"

Women took to social media with a #WhyIStayed campaign explaining all the reasons they didn't just run, the way folks think Janay Rice should have done.

"I have a genetic disease and his health insurance was covering my treatment," one woman tweeted.

"Because 'If I can't have you, NO ONE will have you' was reinforced by my abuser daily," another one wrote.

Really, for many women, they love the relationship, but not the abuse.

Remember Rihanna and Chris Brown? We saw the pictures, we could see what he did to her beautiful face. But we didn't actually see him hit her, so our memory of it faded along with her bruises.

We won't be able to forget Janay's pain, even if she'd like us to.

But, for many women, it is finally getting the uncomfortable spotlight it has long deserved. Because when Ray Rice was filmed busting on his wife, he busted those closed doors wide open.

Petula Dvorak is a Washington Post columnist.

OPINION

A sigh, then a sensible anti-jihadist plan

By FRED KAPLAN
State

WASHINGTON

There's an air of tragedy about President Barack Obama. He wants to chart a new course — pivot to the Pacific and the long decade of war, do nation-building at home — but the old world's most derelict, dysfunctional quarters keep pulling him back in. Now, in the cruelest irony, the gusts are pulling him back to the very land where he least wants to set foot again, the war zone that he spent most of his first term leaving Iraq.

"We will not get dragged into another ground war in Iraq," he insisted in his televised speech Wednesday night. Instead, this will be a war where others — mainly Iraqi soldiers — fight on the ground, while American advisers devise the battle plans and American pilots pummel the enemy with missiles and bombs.

Still, one could be excused for feeling a spasm of dread as the speech spilled forth. I wouldn't be surprised if the president himself heaved a sigh while he wrote it.

That said, the policy that he outlined — his strategy to "degrade and ultimately destroy" the terrorist group known as the Islamic State — is as reasonable, and has as much chance of succeeding, as any that might be conceived.

There are two big new elements in this policy: First, airstrikes will no longer be restricted to areas where the Islamic State poses a threat to U.S. personnel. Instead, they can strafe and bomb Islamic State targets anywhere in Iraq, coordinating the strikes with assaults on the ground by Iraqi soldiers, militias or Kurdish peshmegas.

Second, these airstrikes will take out Islamic State jihadists not only in Iraq but also across the border in Syria. A senior official stressed that this part of the policy is not as open-ended as the speech makes it seem. Obama is well aware that airstrikes alone don't produce victory. They need to be synchronized with ground assaults. And for now, there are no ground forces in Syria that can beat back the Islamic State.

So, at least initially, U.S. airstrikes in Syria will be clustered along the Iraqi

border, to keep Islamic State jihadists from moving back and forth between the countries or from seeking safe haven — in much the same way that drones were fired at northwest Pakistan to deny safe haven to Taliban who'd been fighting in Afghanistan.

However, these airstrikes will eventually expand across Syria. Another part of Obama's strategy (and he did outline this in his speech) is to train and equip the Free Syrian Army, the more moderate militiamen currently being squeezed both by the Islamic State and Syrian President Bashar Assad. (They'll be trained by special forces on a base in Saudi Arabia.) Once they're trained and armed, the FSA will return to Syria and — with the help of U.S. airstrikes — take back their own territory from the Islamic State.

Obama's plan also calls for a wide coalition of European, Arab and Muslim countries to join the fight. The Islamic State is an extremist Sunni movement, so it's especially vital to get predominantly Sunni nations involved — to demonstrate that this is not an American war or a sectarian war of Sunnis versus Shiites. (For this reason, Obama is loathe to bring Iran or Assad's Syria — both Shiite regimes — into the alliance. They too deeply hate the Islamic State, but the Saudis and other Sunni leaders might not enter the fire if it looks like they're supporting Iran. What arrangements are made with Iran or Syria behind the scenes is another matter.)

Obama, never prone to hype, made clear in his speech that the Islamic State jihadists don't yet pose as big a threat as al-Qaida did 13 years ago, on the eve of the World Trade Center attacks. But they are on a rampage, amassing fortunes, acquiring arsenals, led by competent commanders (many of them Saddam Hussein's former generals), playing on anti-Shiite (and anti-Western) sentiment among Sunni radicals. If they are allowed to take over Iraq and Syria, it's fair to ask if Jordan and Saudi Arabia might be next. They are also recruiting European jihadists, who have passports that let them travel across the continent and into the United States. Clearly, they do pose a threat. This cannot and should not be principally America's fight; but the fact



is, America is the only country that can coordinate the coalition — provide the intelligence, logistics and accurate airstrikes — needed to win.

So, the cause is just, and Obama's plan sounds reasonable, even nuanced. What could go wrong? Well, as anyone who's studied the region (and the cavalier predictions made, time and again, by Westerners who go to war there), everything.

Obama made very clear that this battle requires active participation by the Saudis, Turks and Europeans. But the roles and missions haven't yet been outlined; the commitments aren't quite carved in concrete. The plan has a chance of succeeding in Iraq because the new government, formed by Haider al-Abadi, seems inclusive, embraced by Sunnis and Shiites, for the moment — but it could fall apart with the bombing of a single mosque or a marketplace, and then what? Will it look like the Americans are advising and bombing on behalf of a Shiite regime? Will the other Sunni nations back away, fearing the association?

As for Syria, the endgame is unclear. If the Free Syrian Army can't get its act together, despite all efforts, will Obama step

back from that terrain and focus again on Iraq — or will he be tempted to escalate and take on more of the fight alone from the air? Obama is allergic to "mission creep" (and that's good), but he has said that this war will go on for a while; his advisers were recently quoted as saying at least three years. Where will the next president take the fight? To draw a Vietnam analogy (which, granted, should not be stretched too far), will he or she be Lyndon B. Johnson to Obama's John F. Kennedy? (JFK sent only advisers to Vietnam, refusing to deploy combat forces.)

Meanwhile, Obama is doing as close to the right thing as the mess of the Middle East allows. And maybe he'll pull it off. But all tragedy is emmeshed with noble causes and good intentions; it wouldn't be tragedy without them — it would only be farce. This battle is not a farce. It will take massive political effort, delicate diplomacy, and enormous luck to ward off tragedy. It's worth a try.

Fred Kaplan is the author of "The Insurgents: David Petraeus and the Plot to Change the American Way of War" and "1959: The Year Everything Changed."

Scottish independence vote tied to national identity

By MEGAN McARDLE
Bloomberg News

WASHINGTON

About a week ago, I asked my friends on Facebook whether there was really any chance that Scotland would leave Britain. At that point, the "yes" vote was running solidly behind, and it seemed likely that this would follow the path of such referenda in Quebec and elsewhere: close, perhaps, but no cigar. Whatever the downsides of union, Scotland is not South Sudan; I expected there would be some moderate edge to the complications of departure and decide to stay.

But the most recent polls have surprised me (and apparently, the British government): Some polls show independence pulling into the lead, though others show it well behind. I'd still give the moderate edge to the "stay" camp. But it seems entirely possible that come Thursday, the world will see an independent Scotland for the first time in centuries.

My basic position on this sort of thing is that if places want to be independent, they should be independent, unless the reason that they're seeking independence is so

they can have more freedom to oppress minority populations. Yet I can't say that seems like a good idea, for reasons that my friend Alex Massie has ably outlined. Scotland is a net recipient of transfers from the British government, so going it alone will probably require some belt tightening. The process of separating all the intertwined institutions, from banking to education, will be daunting.

But the very looseness of the vote shows how hard it can be to focus on bloodless practical considerations in the face of ethnicity and culture. Even in our enlightened age, people really don't like having their fates controlled by outsiders.

Nice enlightenment liberals who come up against this fact frequently seem bewildered. After 9/11, I heard Europeans link the attack to the United States' admittedly much higher rate of car accidents and gun homicides. I've seen a few people suggest that no one should care what Russia is up to in Ukraine, because after all, that government is pretty corrupt and awful, too. In the wake of the riots in Ferguson, Mo., a number of people asked why there wasn't a focus on black-on-black crime, which, to be sure, claims many more young black

lives each year. These questions were entirely sincere, but also curiously naive, as if someone commiserated about a message by asking you why you weren't more concerned about your spouse's drinking problem.

For those who remain puzzled, Jonathan Haidt has a good word for it: People are groupish. Our first major advance as a species was forming small, social, cooperative groups. But as many survival advantages, but one of the characteristics of those groups that helps them survive is that they are extremely sensitive to the difference between "us" and "them," more concerned about threats from strangers than intimates — often irrationally so. Some people will do themselves great harm in order to punish others they think have wronged them. But this outsized overreaction often follows a deep and persuasive evolutionary logic.

The cosmopolitan class finds it easy to forget how deep these sentiments run, even though many of us are nonetheless moved by them, as I, for one, discovered after 9/11. Really, it's not that we don't understand or, for that matter, endorse groupish behavior; it's just that we find it a lot easier to do the

cost-benefit calculations when our own group isn't involved. It's not really all that surprising that groupish instincts might prove more convincing than fiddling details about how to handle redenomination of Scottish bank accounts if the new nation should find it necessary to develop its own currency.

There's one easy way to override them, of course: an outside threat from an even bigger, stranger group. Small differences are easily glossed over when there are some really foreign people knocking at the gates. But the rich world is largely peaceful now, which gives people more time to worry about the jerks next door. I wonder if it's a coincidence that as the Cold War recedes into distant memory, separatist urges are making more inroads in places such as Scotland and Belgium.

I still assume that Scotland will ultimately choose to stay. But even if it does, it will do so knowing that a near majority of voters wanted to be citizens of Scotland, not a United Kingdom. Nationalism really isn't dead; it's just resting.

Megan McArdle is a Bloomberg View columnist who writes on economics, business and public policy.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Melted candy bars spur call center evacuation

AR BATESVILLE — Officials said two melted chocolate bars sent in the mail prompted an evacuation at a Batesville call center.

The Independence County Sheriff's Office said the two king-size Hershey bars were sent to the Access Arkansas call center with no return address. The Independence County Sheriff's Office said the center was evacuated Tuesday morning.

Police, fire and emergency management responded to the scene, as did a U.S. Postal Service inspector who later deemed the envelope safe.

Police: Intruder caught cooking corn on the cob

MA ROCKLAND — New York police arrested a man they say broke into a home and cooked himself a snack.

Rockland police officers responded to a home about 1:40 a.m. Wednesday after getting a call from the homeowner.

Lt. Nick Zeoli said the homeowner woke up to a loud bang from the kitchen. When the resident went to investigate, he found an intruder cooking corn on the cob on the stove. He told the intruder to leave, and the two men briefly scuffled.

Police arrested John Dalton, 69, and charged him with breaking and entering with intent to commit a felony and assault and battery. Police said Dalton, who was "clearly intoxicated," forced his way inside through a side door.

Police photograph sleeping suspect

FL NOKOMI — Talk about a heavy sleeper.

Police said an accused burglar continued snoozing next to a bag of jewelry he was planning to swipe even after deputies began snapping pictures of him.

According to the Sarasota County Sheriff's Office Facebook page, a cleaning lady discovered Dion Davis, 29, on a bed inside the victim's home Monday.

Deputies said they took several photographs of the sleeping Davis, but he didn't wake up.

Davis was charged with burglary and was booked into jail on \$10,000 bail.



SARASOTA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE/AP

The cleaning lady called police after finding a man asleep next to a bag of jewelry.

THE CENSUS

\$25K

The amount of money Bay City, Mich., officials discovered residents owed after new smart water meters were installed. More than 100 residents received bills asking for hundreds of dollars in undetected water usage. City employees discovered that at many households, the outdoor water meter that's read each month runs more slowly than the indoor meter. The city may forgive the debts.



ZIA NIZAMI, BELLEVILLE (ILL.) NEWS-DEMOCRAT/AP

Big brat

Mabel and Larry Schubert help lay out a 100-foot-long bratwurst on a grill at the Silver Creek Saloon in Belleville, Ill. About 50 people volunteered to carefully grill the bratwurst without burning or breaking it. The event was a practice run for the city's bicentennial celebration Sept. 19-21, when they will be grilling a 200-foot-long bratwurst.

Federal charges over 'swatting' calls

CT HARTFORD — A Wethersfield man was arrested on federal charges of calling in hoax threats to emergency services to draw respondents, such as SWAT units and bomb squads.

Federal officials said Matthew Tollis was arrested Wednesday on charges of making calls earlier this year in Connecticut and other states.

Tollis, 21, and others are accused of using Skype to make hoax threats involving bombs, hostage-taking, firearms, and mass murder. He was identified as a participant in at least six incidents.

Missing trophy mystery solved: Coach had it

MA HAVERHILL — Proof of the 1978 Haverhill High School boys' swimming team state championship is finally returning home. For decades, the trophy com-

memorating one the greatest achievements in school athletic history was missing.

It turns out that the team's coach, Tom McCutchan, had it all along. He said he took it with him when he left Haverhill for a job in West Virginia in 1981, concerned there was no place to display the trophy in Haverhill.

For 30 years, it was boxed away as McCutchan moved from job to job. Now living in Connecticut, he decided it was time it came home.

The trophy will be placed on display on Saturday at the school's new pool when members of the swim team from that era hold a reunion.

Mountain lion killed; likely had attacked boy

CA CUPERTINO — Wildlife officials in Northern California said they shot and killed a mountain lion they believe is the one that attacked a 6-year-old boy.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife spokesman Patrick Foy said it is highly likely that

the 65-pound male mountain lion killed Wednesday is the one that attacked the boy on a hiking trail Sunday, but it will take DNA tests to be sure.

Foy said that searchers and dogs found the mountain lion in the morning and cornered it 70 feet high in a tree.

He said darting and capturing the mountain lion alive was not a viable option.

Man held after drugs discussed on 911 call

TN MOUNT PLEASANT — A man was arrested in Middle Tennessee after dispatchers heard him discussing drugs on an accidental 911 call.

Grant O'Connor was charged with simple possession and possession of drug paraphernalia after his arrest in Mount Pleasant.

Dispatchers traced the call when they heard him talking about getting high and going to a drug dealer's house on an open line.

According to a police report, an officer located O'Connor in a

car that was pulling out of a restaurant parking lot. The officer searched the car and found a bag of marijuana and drug paraphernalia underneath O'Connor's seat.

O'Connor was released on \$3,500 bail the following day.

Town looking for stolen electronic speed sign

VT BRIGHTON — A Vermont town is considering a reward for help finding a brand new electronic sign that tells drivers how fast they're going.

Brighton's \$3,200 sign was so new it hadn't been installed yet. Town Assistant Joel Cope said it was last seen on Sept. 2.

Cope said the police chief used a matching grant to help buy the sign. It had been erected on a street heading to Brighton State Park because nearby residents had complained about speeders.

The select board is considering a reward for information that would lead to the recovery of the sign.

From wire reports

VIDEO GAMES

'Diablo' series heats up with new missions

'Reaper of Souls' for consoles offers fun, but not many surprises

By TIM BOWERS

Special to Stars and Stripes

Death is no longer to be feared now that console gamers can play the new expansion for "Diablo III." Activision Blizzard's "Diablo III: Reaper of Souls" allows gamers to explore a fascinating fifth act in the demon-hunting adventure. It also offers a whole new Nephalem hero known as the Crusader: a holy fighter of the Zakarum faith.



The new act thrusts the player into an environment that is filled with chaos and destruction caused by a fiendish enemy. It's soon revealed that the Angel of Death, Malthael, has captured the

powerful Black Soulstone and intends to use it against mankind.

Fans of the series have been able to play the expansion missions on PC for several months, but they can now also play on Xbox 360, Xbox one, PlayStation 3 and the PS4. Those who played the original "Diablo III" on consoles don't have to start from scratch in the first act. "Reaper of Souls" allows players to import existing champions from previous consoles (Xbox 360 to Xbox one or PS3 to PS4). However, it does not allow PC champions to be imported into the console environment.

As with the PC version, players can join up to three friends and complete all five of the acts of "Diablo III." Four-player co-op is available both online and on the same screen — a bonus that's unavailable to PC gamers. The same-screen action is very



Electronic Arts

Battle with a host of deadly new enemies in "Diablo III: Reaper of Souls."

fun.

In addition to the fifth act, new activities include completing online bounties and exploring rifts.

Online bounties are a fun and exciting way to break up the monotony of crawling through the story line and hearing the same script over and over again. Since "Diablo" is designed to be played repeatedly and at ever-increasing difficulty levels, any change in the routine is welcome.

The bounties begin when a player travels to a waypoint with an exclamation mark, which indicates that there is a short mission to complete. This mission could be anything from killing a specific elite enemy to cleansing a corrupted shrine. After completing the short mission, experience and gold are awarded to the champion. This also moves the player one step closer to receiving a small item bundle that is awarded by the character Tyrael. Tyrael presents this bundle once players have completed all five of the missions in a

certain act section.

During these missions, players will also receive items known as rift crystals and blood shards.

Rift crystals allow players to go into something known as a Nephalem Rift, which is a series of dungeons that require the champions of Sanctuary to butcher a certain number of hell spawn before a Rift Guardian (the dungeon boss) appears. After the guardian is vanquished, loot will pour out of the boss and will usually include a larger number of blood shards, and possibly a few legendary items.

Blood shards allow gamers to visit a woman named Kadala to purchase gear. The items could be really helpful, like a cool legendary weapon or an interesting set of armor, or it could be just another low-level blue item that's good for nothing more than scrap.

The PC and console versions are not identical, though. Several differences make the console version a little more chal-

Overall grade: **B**

lenging. One example that really sticks out is that some of the characters' abilities are not as effective in the console version. For example, the Crusader class has an ability called "Falling Sword," which launches the character into the air and toward a targeted area. In the PC edition, players are able to point anywhere on the screen and jump there — it could be onto an enemy, up a cliff or simply out of the way of a tough enemy. In the console version, however, players are only able to jump to places that have a targetable enemy. That means the player has to be very careful and very skilled when targeting a hostile minion. This is not a game-breaking factor, but it does mean that gamers might have to rethink certain skill loadouts that they have used on the PC or have seen online.

The mature-rated "Diablo III: Reaper of Souls" is an extremely fun game for the console, but it still deserves only a B. The PC version has a certain appeal that just is not matched in the console edition. For example, players are slightly more skilled on the PC version, making the Rifts easier and more entertaining.

Also, the game is basically just an expansion of "Diablo III," so there's nothing extremely surprising. The new missions, character and game modes make it more enjoyable, but these additions are not really big enough to make this an A game.

With this being said, the game remains very fun and enjoyable. And if you have friends to play with, this is a must-buy.

Bottom line: B "Diablo III: Reaper of Souls" offers a lot of fun, but not a lot that's truly new to "Diablo" fans.

Platforms: Xbox 360, Xbox one, PlayStation 3, PS4, PC

Online: us.battle.net

'Sims 4' aspires to greatness and fails

By DERRIK J. LANG

The Associated Press

I knew I'd have issues with "The Sims 4" the moment I realized it wasn't possible to buy a dishwasher for the fabulous couple I'd created to live their virtual little lives to the fullest in Oasis Springs, one of the game's two idyllic neighborhoods. The cost wasn't a concern. I was flush with Simoleons — the game's goofy currency — from selling their novels and masterpieces in the mall.

It's that the oh-so-convenient appliance was among dozens of features the developers had left out of the latest edition of Electronic Arts' popular dollhouse franchise. Despite crafting Oasis Springs' next Jackie Collins and Damien Hirst, my couple was resigned to scrubbing their dishes

in a sink. It's at that point I knew "Sims 4" had let me — and Alma and Jimbo — down.

The problem with "The Sims 4" is that after nearly 15 years, "Sims" fans are keenly aware of EA's business model of later releasing a dozen expansion packs. It's been a successful formula for the



quirky life-simulator series, one that now feels cruelly antiquated in the era of downloadable instant gratification.

Despite that monumental deficiency, this "Sims" is remarkably more intuitive at the start. The developers at Maxis have made it easier than ever to get a house-

hold up and running by introducing streamlined tools to craft dysfunctional virtual cartoons, as well as build their homes. The controls are totally fluid, whether you want to stretch a Sim's waistline or living room.

Unlike their predecessors, this breed of smarter, more emotional Sims can multitask and strive for various aspirations, ranging from finding a soul mate to becoming a best-selling author. When big aspirations are achieved or more simple whims are fulfilled, Sims are now granted points for much-needed rewards, like the ability to skip meals or get promoted more quickly at work.

It would be awesome — if it all flawlessly worked. In my review copy of "Sims 4," I ran into many unfixable glitches, such as Sim babies resembling Freddy Krueger and Sims awkwardly swapping chairs while gathered



ELECTRONIC ARTS, MAXIS/AP

Create and control a new generation of Sims with big personalities, new emotions and distinct appearances in "The Sims 4."

around a table. In one instance, a bizarre Rip Van Winkle goof caused all of my neighbors to age faster when I wasn't controlling them. They later died.

That last bug was enough to drive me to scream Simlish — the game's goofy language — at my laptop. With such snags and so

many features introduced in the previous three entries left out this time, there's an unshakable feeling while playing "The Sims 4" that even though the Sims have evolved, something still isn't quite right about them, and it ain't just their dishpan hands.

Online: thesims.com

FALL TV PREVIEW

Season's Best

* New shows worthy of a first-night look

It's a time-honored rite harking back to an era of black-and-white TVs and the trio of networks whose programs they delivered: the grand unveiling of new fall fare. As part of the ritual, this latest fall crop is an occasion for handicapping the good and the misfires.

Granted, it's a risky business to rate a new series'

prospects on the basis of its pilot episode, which is typically the only thing critics have to go on. But even if it doesn't guarantee a great series will follow, a pilot must at least trigger interest at a level to get viewers to return the second week.

Here are 10 series that might catch your fancy:



"GOTHAM" (Sept. 28 on AFN-Spectrum):

In an industry where nothing is a sure thing, fall's most-awaited show by the most-desirable demo would seem to be a sure thing. "Gotham" turns out to be not only an origin series about Batman but also a humdinger of a noir crime thriller. Rolling back the clock to when Bruce Wayne was a youngster, the series lays the groundwork for the Batman myth while introducing not-yet-Commissioner James Gordon (Ben McKenzie) as a rookie cop.



"RED BAND SOCIETY" (Sept. 21 on

AFN-Pulse): Teenagers meet as patients in the pediatric ward of a Los Angeles hospital. Sure, a show that gathers kids to frolic, flirt and even face death sounds like "Glee" without the jazz hands. But what could have been an overglossed rendering of life's gravest moments instead comes with heart and a dose of authenticity that ground the good times.



"THE FLASH" (Oct. 12 on AFN-Spectrum):

A young man, Barry Allen, awakens from a coma after being struck by lightning, only to find he has the power of superspeed. Ipso facto, he becomes a superhero. It's more complicated, of course, but what really matters is: This version of a familiar comic-book stud feels refreshingly re-thought, and should satisfy fans as well as those who have never found their way into the Flash ethos. It stars Grant Gustin, who, in his grand unveiling as Barry's fleet-footed alter ego, eschews the familiar red don johns in favor of a different kind of uniform. Message: This is a new brand of Flash.



"MARRY ME" (Oct. 20 on AFN-Pulse):

Annie is flighty. Jake is settled and eternally amused by Annie's zaniness. And Annie aren't yet married — just dating for six-years-and-counting, with Annie more than ready for Jake to pop the question. On this slender premise hang the ample comic gifts of co-stars Ken Marino and Casey Wilson.



"BLACK-ISH" (Sept. 26 on AFN-Prime):

The versatile Anthony Anderson stars as Andre, a determined patriarch who sets out to restore (or is it establish?) a sense of cultural identity for his middle-class African-American family which, he worries, is ethnically unmoored. Andre's concern isn't shared by his biracial wife, Rainbow (Tracee Ellis Ross), or their four kids. But Andre frets about "keeping it real." This is a clever premise, whose black-centricity has plenty to say about the pros and cons of assimilation by any group. It's a lot of Deep Thoughts packed into a fluffy sitcom, but "black-ish" seems up to the challenge.



"MANHATTAN LOVE STORY": Girl meets guy in the Big Apple. She's new in town and full of romantic yearnings. He's a true Gothamite who lives the sporting life. And, of course, opposites attract. Meanwhile, the audience is privy to their innermost thoughts about dating and other pressing matters via the characters' voiceovers. This "Love Story," starring winsome Analeigh Tipton and Jake McDormann, touches the heart and, more important, the funny bone.

FALL TV PREVIEW



"THE MYSTERIES OF LAURA" (Sept. 25 on AFN-Spectrum): Debra Messing stars as a brilliant, rules-breaking NYPD homicide detective and harried single mother whose estranged detective-husband becomes her boss. (Awkward!) Messing ("Will & Grace") has an indisputable gift for comedy. Here she's arresting as a brassy, disheveled cop in a series that clearly wants to match the light-comedy tone of the long-ago "Columbo." "Mysteries" has its cops-and-robbers element, but it's mostly helter-skelter fun.



"BAD JUDGE": Good judge, bad girl: That's the character Kate Walsh tackles on this new sitcom. Judge Rebecca Wright is unforgiving on the bench but an unapologetic party animal elsewhere. Walsh presides with little judicial restraint on a show you'll find guilty of selective racism and plenty of laughs.



"JANE THE VIRGIN" (Oct. 16 on AFN-Pulse): The one-line description of this series seems like a cruelty joke: Jane Villanueva, an effervescent young Miami woman with her eyes trained on the future and her knees clamped virtuously together, is mistakenly impregnated with a specimen meant for someone else. And to add a further twist, the specimen came from the owner of the luxury hotel that employs Jane as a waitress. The wonder of this series is that it feels fully plausible, authentic and delightful, unfolding in a multicultural world with the irresistible Gina Rodriguez in the title role. Time will tell if its grand ambitions outstrip its ability to deliver, but in the short term it succeeds in the thing a TV series rarely does: It keeps you guessing what will happen next.

Photos by AP, respective networks



"HOW TO GET AWAY WITH MURDER" (Sept. 26 on AFN-Spectrum): A legendary attorney is fearless in the courtroom representing society's worst criminals. Then she's fearless in the classroom as she drills a no-holds-barred philosophy of law into her students — and she selects a group of her top students to work at her law firm, where they fall under her spell as they help tackle her toughest cases. "Murder" promises to be twisty, wicked, dark and fun. And it stars Viola Davis, who brings life to a character of endless calculations and mystery.

Critic: 'Scorpion' is overhyped

The Washington Post

Washington Post critic Hank Stuever hosts a weekly online chat to talk all things TV. On the minds of readers recently: whether we should be wary of relentless ad campaigns.

New show promos

When a network heavily advertises a new show (I see nonstop ads for CBS's "Scorpion"), what are they really doing? Is it because they fear it won't do well (so it needs all the help it can get), it's a 50/50 show that could go either way (so a little promotion goes a long way) or are they just downright proud of it? In the case of CBS, I couldn't tell you what their other new fall shows are, but I certainly know about "Scorpion." (The series premieres on AFN-Prime on Sept. 27.)

Stuever: And I will go ahead and tell you that "Scorpion" is easily one of the worst, dumbest shows that CBS is bringing out this fall. (And "Madam Secretary" is one of the best.) I think the networks go way overboard on the ads for new shows, beginning in summer. By the time it gets here, a viewer has a built-in bias against it, just because of the relentless ad campaign. Premium cable channels are often much better at creating a sense of mystery with their promos — just enough to make you curious and not so much that you get sick of it.



'Madam Secretary' vs. 'State of Affairs'

Which female-blond-breaking-rules-in-Washington, D.C., will make it to a second season? Or will both be "terminated with extreme prejudice"?

Stuever: "Madam Secretary" (left, premiering on AFN-Prime Sept. 22) delivers one of the sturdiest pilots of the season, and I've always liked Tea Leoni.

And you know what about "State of Affairs" (right, premiering on AFN-Prime Nov. 18)? It's far better than I expected it to be and no more ludicrous than most of the action/espionage/anti-terror shows we already watch.

I think both shows stand a decent chance.

'Greatest American Hero'

What's this about Fox wanting to do a reboot of the series? Didn't they learn the lesson from "The Bionic Woman"?

Stuever: Yes, there was a report that Fox might be considering a reboot of "Greatest American Hero." (Believe it or not, I'm walking on air...) That "Bionic Woman" reboot in 2006 was NBC's problem. These shows will keep coming back round and round, because sometimes you get a hit ("Hawaii Five-O," "Dallas") even though you get a lot of duds ("Charlie's Angels," "Ironside"). I'll bet there's not a single show from the 1980s or '90s that doesn't have a reboot rattling around in development or pitch meetings somewhere. Reincarnation is just part of television's circle of life.

Also coming on AFN

AFN is set to add 14 new prime-time shows this fall. Here are a few more:

- **"Selfie,"** with John Cho, starts Oct. 2 on AFN-Family.
- **"NCIS: New Orleans,"** premieres Sept. 24 on AFN-Prime with Scott Bakula.

- **"A to Z,"** with "How I Met Your Mother" mother Cristin Milioti, debuts Oct. 6 on AFN-Pulse.
- **"Stalker,"** with "Nikita" star Maggie Q and "The Practice" star Dylan McDermott, premieres Oct. 2 on AFN-Prime.
- For more: tinyurl.com/afnfalltv

HEALTH & FITNESS

Netting new followers

Pickleball the latest racket in court sports

BY COLLEEN SCHRAPPEN
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

There's a friendly but rigorous doubles match being played on the tennis courts at a local recreation complex.

The neon yellow ball sails back and forth over the net.

But it is not a tennis ball.

It is plastic and pocked with holes, like a shrunken Wiffle ball.

And the foursome is not playing with rackets. They are hitting the balls with paddles, ones that are a little bigger than those used for pingpong.

They are not playing tennis or pingpong. Or racquetball or badminton, for that matter.

They are playing pickleball.

More accurately, they are learning how to play pickleball, a game that takes elements of multiple racket sports and spins them into its own quirky conventions.

On a recent summer evening, class instructor Jay Hubert has walked the group through some strategies, including the lob, a shot often used in tennis.

The hit should loop deep into the opponent's court, "so you can time to get your position back," says Hubert, 29.

Gloria Garidel, 66, is familiar with

the lob. She used to play tennis, and that background is helping her get the hang of this fused sport.

"You have to put a little more 'oomph' into it than with a tennis ball," she says.

Because of its perforations, the pickleball has more float, slowing the rally and buying players time to get into position. A pickleball travels at about a third of the speed of a tennis ball.

The ball's lightness means it's harder to smash, so brute strength does not factor into pickleball as much as in other court sports. And it introduces an element of randomness — sometimes the wind grabs the ball; sometimes it doesn't bounce true.

"People with unequal abilities can play each other," says Steve Strathearn, 54. "There are longer volleys."

Strathearn's children had played the game in middle school phys ed, so he was familiar with it when he saw the pickleball class offered through St. Louis Community College's continuing education program.

On this night, Strathearn has challenged Hubert in a game of singles. Singles and doubles matches are played with the same boundaries, about the size of a badminton court.

With less ground to cover than in ten-

nis — and fewer sharp stops and starts — the game is more welcoming to folks who might have knee or joint problems but still want a cardiovascular workout.

Strathearn manages to mostly keep pace with the 2½-decades-younger instructor, despite a bum ankle. "I used to play racquetball," Strathearn says, "but this is easier on the joints."

Pickleball is particularly popular in Florida and Arizona, attracting retirees who have hung up their other rackets.

Dan Marlowe and his wife, Christine, both 68, decided to try to get a grasp on the game before spending their first winter in Florida. They bought their own paddles and come early to practice before class.

They are partners in a doubles match, and they are losing — but not by much.

Hubert reminds them to switch positions after a point is scored, for the next serve.

"We like it where we are," Dan Marlowe jokes.

Serving is another way pickleball equalizes the playing level. The ball is served underhand, and it must bounce in the opponents' court before being returned. It has to bounce again before the serving team hits it back.

After that, the ball can be returned



Gloria Garidel hits the ball during a pickleball class at Kennedy Recreation Complex in St. Louis in July. The racket sport is popular among all ages.

without a bounce — a volley — or played off the bounce, with a ground stroke.

"The serving rules are the hardest part of the game," Hubert says.

Another pickleball idiosyncrasy is the nonvolley line that runs parallel to the net on each side of the court. The zone between the net and the nonvolley line is called the kitchen. Players in that zone have to let the ball bounce before returning it, preventing close-to-the-net slams.

The location of the hit is much more important than its power.

"The key, most of the time, is to hit the ball low over the net," Hubert reminds the group as they grab drinks at the end of the hourlong session.

A man who is walking to his car after playing tennis nearby stops near the slightly swarthy, slightly winded group.

"Pickleball, right?" he asks.

"Come play in the fall session," Hubert tells him. "It's a great workout."



Pickleball combines elements of tennis, badminton and table tennis.

PHOTOS BY SARAH CONARD, ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH/MCT

Keep tabs on your fitness progress with these trackers

BY DANIELLE BRAFF
Chicago Tribune

The latest fitness watches, bands and trackers will remind you to stick with your fitness goals — they'll track your progress and they'll sync the info with your phone. There are basic heart rate monitor and calorie counter options, too. The only thing they won't do? Work out for you.

Garmin Vivofit

With a battery life of at least one year, you won't have to take off this water-resistant watch for quite some time. It will monitor your steps, heart rate (an external monitor is required for this), calories and sleep — as well as tell the time. Vivofit automatically learns and personalizes your daily goals, tracks progress and reminds you when you should be moving by displaying a red move bar on the watch when

you've been inactive for an hour. \$129.99, buy.garmin.com

Blue SC Speed and Cadence Sensor

Cyclists can wirelessly pair this odometer with any cycling app (or use the free Wahoo Fitness Odometer app), including Cyclometer or Strava Cycling, to track cycling data like speed and cadence numbers. The gadget records lifetime bike mileage by week, month and year. It connects via Bluetooth with iPhones and iPads. \$59.99, wahoofitness.com

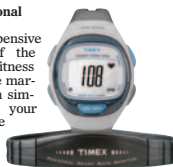


Timex Personal Trainer

Less expensive than most of the higher-end fitness watches on the market, this watch simply monitors your heart rate while still helping you maintain your fitness goals. It is easy to use, has a large display and counts calories. It also beeps when you run outside of your heart zone (it'll beep if your heart beats too quickly or too slowly). \$70, timex.com

Lifeband Touch Activity Tracker

This smart activity tracker is compatible with many heart rate monitors and smartphones — and it can transmit data



to third-party apps such as MyFitnessPal, MapMyFitness and RunKeeper. It can display time, biometrics, incoming calls and music controls, and it also measures your distance, speed, number of steps, calories consumed and projected pace. All the info is visible with a swipe of your finger. The watch has a motion-sensing algorithm that turns on the display when you rotate your wrist. \$149.99, bestbuy.com

Polar FT60

This watch is basically a personal trainer attached to your arm. It offers personalized training programs, and it rewards you when you complete them. It also displays your calorie count and fat-burning percentage — and it'll store 100 training files. It pushes you to work out harder by telling you how long you've been in different fitness zones by tracking your heart rate so you don't slack at the gym. \$179.95, polar.com

ENTERTAINMENT

Host, author & more

Steve Harvey explains how to play the game of success

By EMILY YARR/The Washington Post

Steve Harvey? Yeah, he's having a pretty good year. His daytime talk show has thrived in an era in which similar ventures crash and burn. He won two Daytime Emmy awards, one for his talk show and another as Outstanding Game Show Host for the syndicated "Family Feud," a franchise he's largely credited with saving. "Think Like a Man Too," the second movie in a franchise based on his best-selling relationship advice book, was a hit at the box office. He's got a radio program, "The Steve Harvey

Morning Show." Plus, there's another book coming out this fall, "Act Like a Success, Think Like a Success," which he calls a "game-changer."

He's matter-of-fact about his impressive list of accomplishments, and why shouldn't he be? Women follow his candid dating advice so closely that they frequently approach him on the street and ask, "Steve, can you find me a man?"

We got him on the phone a few weeks ago shortly after he landed in Chicago and asked him about what's left to conquer in the entertainment world; what he's learned from the cutthroat daytime talk show world; and if he really can find his fans a man.

So many daytime talk shows struggle and get canceled almost immediately. What sets yours apart?

I think the authenticity resonates with people for the most part, because I have opinions and I'm not afraid to say them and I don't care if it's politically correct or not. My thoughts on child-rearing, on dating, on relationships, on your boss, on your attitude about money, whatever it is. I'm not afraid to say it.

I think also, having a male perspective in daytime TV that's a champion for women like I am, that helps. When a woman hears advice directly from a man, I think it resonates for them a little better than when they hear it from their girlfriends. They trust me and know I'm not going to lie to them.

The daytime talk show audience is mainly geared toward women, so what's the most common thing you hear from women about why they like your show?

The honesty resonates with them — a lot of times I hear that from women. They're interested in my take on a lot of different things. Because they know I'm going to be very honest, and they know that I speak from a position of realness, that I don't give them canned answers. I don't give them the answer that my publicist told me I should say, or my marketing guy told me I should say. I give it to them straight. I think that they enjoy smiling during the middle of the day.

When people see you on the street, do they corner you and try to ask for advice?

The majority of things I get from women is, "Steve, can you find me a man?" That's my number one request. I say, "Well, you know, I can help you out, but I don't know if I can find him. He's going to find you."

You're credited with saving "Family Feud" from cancellation in 2010. How do you inject your own personality into



TIM HART, NBC/The Washington Post

Oprah Winfrey visited Steve Harvey's talk show in 2013. Harvey says

that show while still keeping the game running smoothly? Can you do it in your sleep at this point, or is it challenging?

It's not a challenge at all; I'm doing the thing I was born to do. So I think it was really, really important for me to interject more humor into the show. Every answer a person gives is not going to be on the board — I don't care how hard the family is clapping, saying, "Good answer, good answer." No, it's not! No, no, no. That's not a good answer. And why you're thinking this is a good answer, I don't know, but let's talk about that for a minute. That's never been done on a (game) show, where the host questions the person's response. And I brought that to a game show business and I turned that into a really, really fun time. I'm not mean to any of the contestants. I'm only repeating back what you said,

so if you said it, you can't get mad at me for repeating it over and over and over.

"Act Like a Lady, Think Like a Man" turned into quite the phenomenon — when you were writing it, did you anticipate it being a giant hit?

(Laughs.) I wish I could say that I did — that was the plan, but nah. (The publisher) told me that a huge literary book is 250,000 copies.

I told them I would sell 750,000 books. They laughed. I heard them, they were saying, "Yeah, that's really nice, Steve, yeah, sure. If we sell 100,000 copies we're going to be very happy. 200,000 copies and we're bananas."

Well what is it now? At 3.8 million copies, a movie, two movies? Come on. I'd love to say I thought of that, but I didn't; that was a gift from God.

And this new book will take the same approach, just not about relationships?

This new book, let me tell you something: This book right here, it's gonna be a game-changer. This book right here will transform so many lives because I'm talking to where the average person is.

And you know how I know that? Because I've been there. See, I've fallen and thought I couldn't get back up.

I've been written off and told I wasn't going to ever be nothing. I jumped and

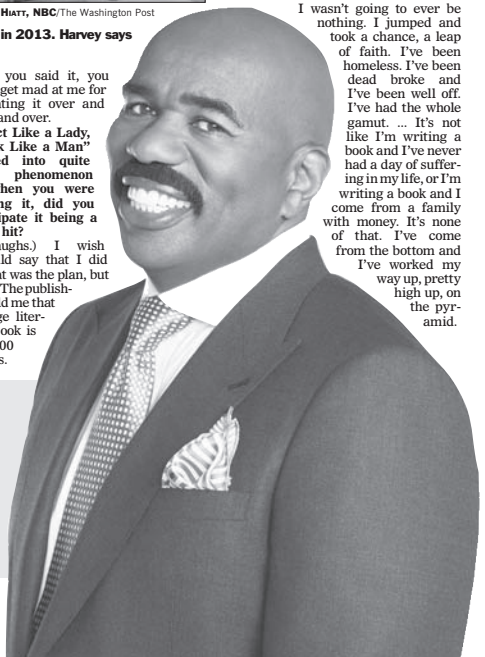
took a chance, a leap of faith. I've been homeless. I've been dead broke and I've been well off. I've had the whole gamut. ... It's not like I'm writing a book and I've never had a day of suffering in my life, or I'm writing a book and I come from a family with money. It's none of that. I've come from the bottom and I've worked my way up, pretty high up, on the pyramid.

Q: So, TV show, movies, radio, books. Any area left to conquer?

A: My goal is to become (one of the) premier motivational speakers in the country. That's what I'm working on right now with my new website, actlikeasuccess.com. I've hired a bunch of experts to help teach a lot of different areas of this thing called success. I think that's my next big deal.

Steve Harvey juggles the titles of TV and radio host, movie star and author.

HEIDI GUTMAN, NBC/The Washington Post



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BUSINESS/WEATHER

Wal-Mart spurns Apple Pay system

By DANIELLE DOUGLAS

The Washington Post

Wal-Mart said it will not join Apple's new mobile payment system and will continue developing a separate one, setting up a high-profile race to define how Americans will pay for products in the future.

The contest between the world's most valuable company and the world's largest retailer has the potential to create competing systems, confusing shoppers who already look askance at using their smartphones and other gadgets to pay for goods. Yet with two such powerful advocates behind this technology, consumers may eventually find it difficult to hold on to their old-fashioned credit cards and wallets.

The two giants hold tremendous sway over the marketplace. Apple has put smartphones into the hands of tens of millions of people in the United States, while Wal-Mart has partnered with a broad coalition of the country's biggest banks,

credit card companies and prominent retailers, including Disney, McDonald's and Macy's, to launch its mobile payment system, called Apple Pay.

Wal-Mart has a far bigger customer base — hundreds of millions of people shop at its stores every week. The retailing giant is one of dozens of well-known brands that have rallied behind a mobile payment method called CurrentC. Others include Target, 7-Eleven, Southwest Airlines, the Gap and Shell gas stations.

Apple Pay is set to launch next month. The pilot for CurrentC began this month; the nationwide rollout is expected next year.

Officials at Wal-Mart declined to comment beyond a statement saying that they have no plans to join Apple Pay. Apple did not return requests for comment.

Retailers may have greater financial incentive to join CurrentC than Apple Pay.

If broadly adopted, CurrentC could impose a radical change on the credit and debit card system.

Customers can either load cash into the app or allow the app to take funds directly out of a checking or savings account — it cannot be linked to a credit card.

That means Wal-Mart and other retailers would avoid paying "swipe" fees — the money merchants pay banks every time a shopper swipes a credit or debit card. The stores plan to use those savings to offer discounts to consumers who adopt the system. The network of retailers is also expected to cover the cost of fraudulent purchases, which generally are paid for by banks today.

The two systems have key differences.

CurrentC works on any smartphone, so it has a larger potential market. When a shopper is ready to buy a product, the CurrentC app creates a type of bar code — called a QR code — that can be recognized by most checkout scanners today. Apple Pay uses a chip that sends signals through the air using technology called near-field communication, or NFC. But

only 10 percent of merchants have sensors that can read such signals, and such devices can cost about \$500 to install. However, retailers have been ordered by credit card companies to upgrade their registers to models that probably will include NFC technology.

Apple's system allows users to load their credit and debit cards onto an iPhone. A consumer would merely need to hold the smartphone close to a NFC sensor and confirm the purchase with a fingerprint scan.

MARKET WATCH

Sept. 11, 2014

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| Dow Jones | -19.71 |
| Industrials | 17,049.00 |
| Nasdaq composite | 5.28 |
| Standard & Poor's 500 | 1.76 |
| Russell 2000 | 1,997.45 |
| | 7.36 |
| | 1,172.34 |

EXCHANGE RATES

| Military rates | |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| Euro costs (Sept. 15) | \$1.3282 |
| Dollar buys (Sept. 15) | €0.7529 |
| British pound (Sept. 15) | \$1.67 |
| Japanese yen (Sept. 16) | 104.00 |
| South Korean won (Sept. 15) | 1,013.00 |

| Commercial rates | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Bahrain (Dinar) | 0.3771 |
| British pound | \$1.6222/6.165 |
| Canada (dollar) | 1.1074 |
| China (Yuan) | 6.1349 |
| Denmark (Krone) | 5.7550 |
| Egypt (Pound) | 1.1525 |
| Euro | \$1.2932/0.7733 |
| Hong Kong (Dollar) | 1.7509 |
| Hungary (Forint) | 243.67 |
| Israel (Shekel) | 3.6338 |
| Japan (Yen) | 107.34 |
| Kuwait (Dinar) | 0.2866 |
| Norway (Krone) | 6.3712 |
| Philippines (Peso) | 43.93 |
| Poland (Zloty) | 3.25 |
| Saudi Arabia (Riyal) | 3.7508 |
| Singapore (Dollar) | 1.2631 |
| South Korea (Won) | 1,026.30 |
| Switzerland (Franc) | 0.9354 |
| Taiwan (Dollar) | 32.23 |
| Turkey (Lira) | 2.2112 |

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

| | |
|---------------------------|------|
| Prime rate | 3.25 |
| Discount rate | 4.25 |
| Federal funds market rate | 0.09 |
| 3-month bill | 0.02 |
| 30-year bond | 3.27 |

WEATHER OUTLOOK



Saturday's US temperatures

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|----|----|-------|------------------|----|----|-------------|--------------|-----|------|------------|----------------|-----|------|-------|
| City | Hi | Lo | Wthr | City | Hi | Lo | Wthr | City | Hi | Lo | Wthr | City | Hi | Lo | Wthr |
| Ablene, Tex. | 69 | 53 | Cldy | Chatanooga | 84 | 68 | Cldy | Fort Wayne | 63 | 52 | Cldy | Louisville | 71 | 60 | Cldy |
| Akron, Ohio | 63 | 50 | Cldy | Chicago | 61 | 46 | PCldy | Fresno | 102 | 69 | Cldy | Lubbock | 70 | 50 | Cldy |
| Albany, N.Y. | 66 | 45 | Rain | Cincinnati | 69 | 54 | PCldy | Grand Rapids | 60 | 45 | PCldy | Macon | 89 | 71 | Cldy |
| Albuquerque | 74 | 53 | Cldy | Cleveland | 62 | 50 | Cldy | Green Bay | 54 | 35 | PCldy | Madison | 59 | 38 | PCldy |
| Allentown, Pa. | 67 | 53 | Cldy | Colorado Springs | 73 | 37 | Cir | Harrisburg | 68 | 54 | PCldy | Memphis | 75 | 60 | Cldy |
| Anchorage | 68 | 43 | Cldy | Columbia, S.C. | 85 | 72 | Rain | Hartford | 65 | 50 | Cldy | Miami Beach | 87 | 75 | Rain |
| Asheville | 76 | 63 | Rain | Columbus, Ga. | 90 | 73 | Cldy | Hennepin | 64 | 38 | Cldy | Midland-Odessa | 67 | 52 | Cldy |
| Atlanta | 85 | 71 | Rain | Concord, N.H. | 65 | 44 | Cldy | Honolulu | 83 | 74 | Cldy | Minneapolis | 59 | 45 | PCldy |
| Atlantic City | 74 | 60 | Rain | Corpus Christi | 83 | 76 | Rain | Houston | 86 | 74 | Rain | Missoula | 69 | 35 | Cir |
| Baltimore | 71 | 58 | Cldy | Dallas-Ft. Worth | 77 | 62 | Cldy | Huntsville | 79 | 65 | Cldy | Mobile | 74 | 61 | Cldy |
| Baton Rouge | 89 | 73 | Rain | Daytona Beach | 88 | 75 | Cldy | Indianapolis | 65 | 52 | PCldy | Montgomery | 89 | 72 | Cldy |
| Bilings | 61 | 37 | Cir | Denver | 72 | 39 | Cir | Jacksonville | 86 | 70 | Cldy | Nashville | 77 | 61 | Cldy |
| Birmingham | 83 | 69 | Cldy | Des Moines | 62 | 38 | Cir | Lansing | 68 | 52 | PCldy | New Orleans | 90 | 77 | Cldy |
| Blackrock | 65 | 39 | PCldy | Detroit | 63 | 51 | Cldy | Lake Charles | 85 | 74 | Cldy | New York City | 71 | 58 | Rain |
| Boise | 84 | 69 | Cldy | Duluth | 58 | 34 | Cldy | Las Vegas | 99 | 75 | Cldy | Newark | 72 | 58 | Cldy |
| Boston | 66 | 55 | Cldy | El Paso | 73 | 62 | Cldy | Lexington | 72 | 60 | Cldy | Norfolk, Va. | 78 | 69 | Rain |
| Bridgeport | 69 | 54 | Rain | Elkins | 71 | 55 | Rain | Lincoln | 64 | 38 | Cldy | North Platte | 66 | 33 | Cir |
| Brownsville | 84 | 79 | Rain | Erie | 61 | 48 | Rain | Little Rock | 75 | 60 | Cldy | Omaha | 62 | 39 | Cir |
| Buffalo | 62 | 48 | Rain | Eugene | 92 | 43 | Cldy | Los Angeles | 96 | 70 | Cldy | Orlando | 91 | 75 | Cldy |
| Burlington, Vt. | 64 | 44 | Cldy | Fairbanks | 70 | 47 | Cldy | Los Angeles | 96 | 70 | Cldy | Paderborn | 71 | 56 | PCldy |
| Caribou, Maine | 58 | 34 | Cir | Fargo | 64 | 36 | PCldy | Los Angeles | 96 | 70 | Cldy | Penn. | 83 | 64 | Cldy |
| Charleston, S.C. | 88 | 72 | Cldy | Flagstaff | 74 | 43 | PCldy | Los Angeles | 96 | 70 | Cldy | Philadelphia | 72 | 59 | Rain |
| Charleston, W.Va. | 74 | 60 | Rain | Fort Smith | 74 | 57 | Cldy | Los Angeles | 96 | 70 | Cldy | Phoenix | 102 | 81 | PCldy |
| Charlotte, N.C. | 77 | 66 | Rain | | | | Los Angeles | 96 | 70 | Cldy | Pittsburgh | 68 | 53 | Cldy | |

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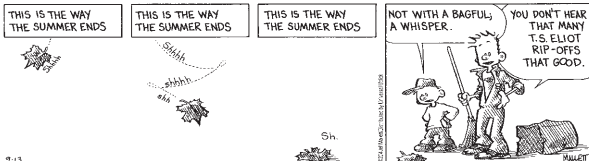
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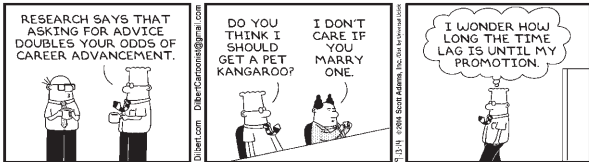
The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

National temperature extremes
Hi: Thu., 114, Death Valley, Calif.
Lo: Thu., 16, Daniel, Wyo.

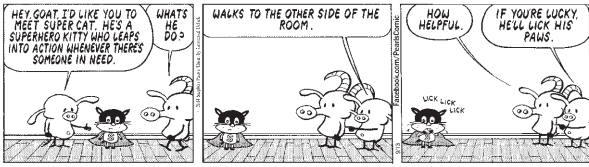
Frazz



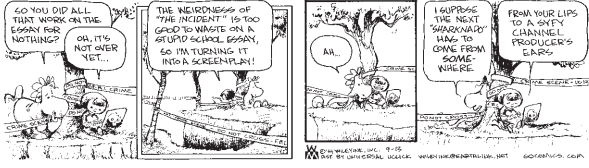
Dilbert



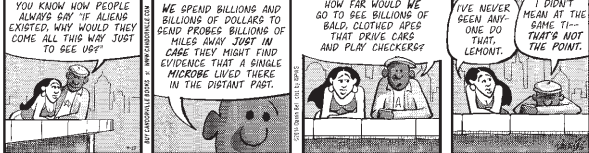
Pearls Before Swine



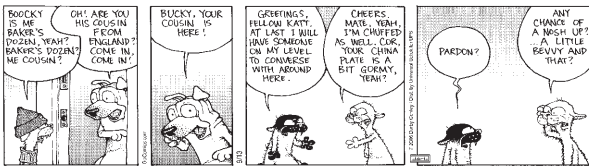
Non Sequitur



Candorville



Get Fuzzy



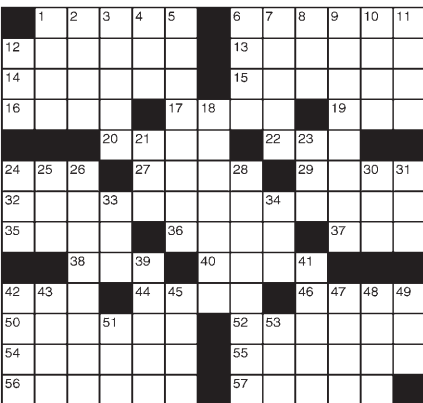
Doonesbury



Fort Knox



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 Like-minded groups
- 6 Lyric poet of Lesbos
- 12 Elephant driver
- 13 Hateful
- 14 Tense
- 15 Glittery decoration
- 16 Marceau, notably
- 17 As well
- 19 "— not choose to run"
- 20 Jerry Herman show
- 22 Perch
- 24 Fuss and feathers
- 27 Paraphernalia
- 29 Thailand, once
- 32 Hamlet's options
- 35 Flower shop vessel
- 36 Half a ticket
- 37 Part of four state names
- 38 Mame's man
- 40 Norwegian royal name
- 42 Toss in
- 44 Writer's inspiration
- 46 Showed unoriginality
- 50 Lifts
- 52 Groomsman's garb
- 54 Danes or Forlani
- 55 Tire patterns
- 56 Eight kings of England
- 57 Exalt

DOWN

- 1 "How — Be Sure"
- 2 Throat clearer
- 3 Cyberspace access
- 4 Prizefighter
- 5 Soft-shell clams
- 6 Drunkards
- 7 Francisco's farewell
- 8 Cushion insert
- 9 Stance
- 10 Colored
- 11 Christianity, today
- 12 Off-tattooed word
- 13 Sheds
- 21 Back in time
- 23 Follower (Suff.)
- 24 Off-roader, for short
- 25 "— good deed"
- 26 Glass made from lava
- 28 Casino game
- 30 Honest politician
- 31 Kitten's comment
- 33 "A mouse!"
- 34 Schedule abbr.
- 39 Manicurist's abrasive
- 41 Sends by phone
- 42 St. Louis attraction
- 43 "Over hill, over —"
- 45 Works with ...
- 47 Pinnacle
- 48 Vortex
- 49 Two, in Tijuana
- 51 Round Table address
- 53 Samovar

Answer to Previous Puzzle



9-13

CRYPTOQUIP

PROYPRDD XRDD-HI-IRCYM
EXH ERO R PNQ PSMKYZ HZ
YJYMBPHKB CHOA HI AX Y

ANCY: HZSO ERQZYM.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BEACH BOYS TRACK HYPING BARBECUE COOKERS PRODUCED IN THE GOLDEN STATE: "CALIFORNIA GRILLS."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals O

AUTO RACING

CHASE FOR THE SPRINT CUP DRIVER CAPSULES

1

Brad Keselowski

No. 2 Ford
2,012 points

How he qualified: Wins at Las Vegas, Kentucky, Loudon and Richmond (September).

Chase history: Two previous appearances; 2012 champion.

The story: The 2012 champion knows what it takes to win the title.



2

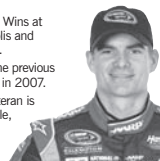
Jeff Gordon

No. 24 Chevrolet
2,009 points

How he qualified: Wins at Kansas, Indianapolis and Michigan (August).

Chase history: Nine previous appearances; 2nd in 2007.

The story: The veteran is seeking his fifth title, but first under the Chase format.



3

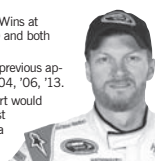
Dale Earnhardt Jr.

No. 88 Chevrolet
2,009 points

How he qualified: Wins at Daytona (February) and both Pocono races.

Chase history: Six previous appearances; 5th in '04, '06, '13.

The story: The sport would love to see the most popular driver win a championship.



4

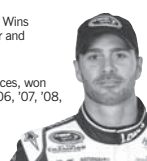
Jimmie Johnson

No. 48 Chevrolet
2,009 points

How he qualified: Wins at Charlotte, Dover and Michigan (June).

Chase history: 10 previous appearances, won championship in '06, '07, '08, '09, '10 and '13.

The story: A favorite again.



5

Joey Logano

No. 22 Ford
2,009 points

How he qualified: Three wins, at Texas, Kentucky (April) and Bristol (August).

Chase history: One previous appearance (8th in 2013).

The story: Does the 24-year-old have the experience and the mindset to win?



6

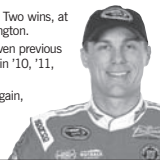
Kevin Harvick

No. 4 Chevrolet
2,006 points

How he qualified: Two wins, at Phoenix and Darlington.

Chase history: Seven previous appearances; 3rd in '10, '11, '13.

The story: Once again, Harvick has put himself in position to win it all.



7

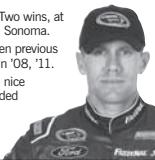
Carl Edwards

No. 99 Ford
2,006 points

How he qualified: Two wins, at Bristol (March) and Sonoma.

Chase history: Seven previous appearances; 2nd in '08, '11.

The story: It'd be a nice parting gift if he ended his Roush Fenway Racing days with a championship.



8

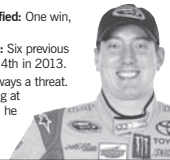
Kyle Busch

No. 18 Toyota
2,003 points

How he qualified: One win, at Fontana.

Chase history: Six previous appearances; 4th in 2013.

The story: Always a threat. If he gets going at the right time, he could win his first title.



9

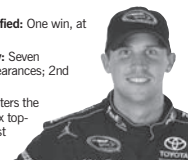
Denny Hamlin

No. 11 Toyota
2,003 points

How he qualified: One win, at Talladega.

Chase history: Seven previous appearances; 2nd in '10.

The story: Enters the Chase with six top-10s in his past nine races.



10

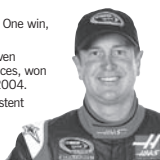
Kurt Busch

No. 41 Chevrolet
2,003 points

How he qualified: One win, at Martinsville.

Chase history: Seven previous appearances, won championship in 2004.

The story: Inconsistent much of the year, but has a good track record.



11

Kasey Kahne

No. 5 Chevrolet
2,003 points

How he qualified: One win, at Atlanta.

Chase history: Four previous appearances; 4th in 2012.

The story: With his recent victory, he's getting hot at the right time to make a push for his first championship.



12

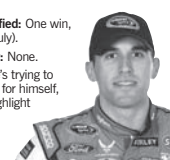
Aric Almirola

No. 43 Ford
2,003 points

How he qualified: One win, at Daytona (July).

Chase history: None.

The story: He's trying to make a name for himself, but his '14 highlight is likely going to be his first career win.



13

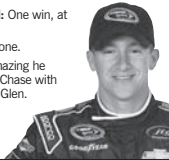
AJ Allmendinger

No. 47 Chevrolet
2,003 points

How he qualified: One win, at Watkins Glen.

Chase history: None.

The story: It's amazing he simply made the Chase with a win at Watkins Glen. Expect him to be among the early cuts.



14

Matt Kenseth

No. 20 Toyota
2,000 points

How he qualified: Highest point total among drivers to not win a race.

Chase history: Nine previous appearances; 2nd in '06, '13.

The story: He's been consistent this year; things might fall in place for him.



15

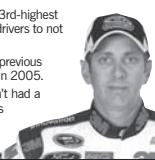
Greg Biffle

No. 16 Ford
2,000 points

How he qualified: 3rd-highest point total among drivers to not win a race.

Chase history: Six previous appearances; 2nd in 2005.

The story: He hasn't had a season that inspires faith he'll be a contender.



16

Ryan Newman

No. 31 Chevrolet
2,000 points

How he qualified: 2nd-highest point total among drivers to not win a race.

Chase history: Five previous appearances; 6th in 2005.

The story: It's hard to see him contending for the title.



SOURCES: nascar.com; nascarmedia.com; The Associated Press; Fort Worth Star-Telegram

THE FINAL 10 RACES

Sept. 14

MyArietyStory.
Race for Heroes
Joliet, Ill.

Sept. 21

Sylvania 300
Loudon, N.H.

Sept. 28

AAA 400
Dover, Del.

Oct. 5

Hollywood
Casino 400
Kansas City, Kan.

Oct. 11

Bank of America
500
Concord, N.C.

Oct. 19

GEICO 500
Talladega, Ala.

Oct. 26

Goody's
Headache Relief
Shot 500
Ridgeway, Va.

Nov. 2

AAA Texas 500
Fort Worth,
Texas

Nov. 9

Quicken Loans
Race for Heroes
500
Avondale, Ariz.

Nov. 16

Ford EcoBoost
400
Homestead, Fla.

AUTO RACING



STEVE HELLER/AP

Hendricks Motorsports drivers Jeff Gordon, left, led the NASCAR Sprint Cup points standings for most of the year and teamed with Jimmie Johnson, right, and Dale Earnhardt Jr. to win nine of 26 races this season. Johnson has won Sprint Cup championships while Gordon has won four.

Elimination time begins

Hendrick, Penske and Harvick gearing up for Chase

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — win in the season-opening Daytona 500 guaranteed Dale Earnhardt Jr. a spot in NASCAR's title race. It also allowed his Hendrick Motorsports team to live in the moment on the race track and not get hung up on results.

The 10-race Chase for the Sprint Cup championship is here and the laissez-faire attitude must go. A loaded championship field means there's little room for error in NASCAR's new elimination format.

"Well, we've been sort of on a vacation for 20 weeks. It's time to get to it," Earnhardt said after the "regular-season" finale at Richmond. "But as a company, I don't think we could be any more prepared than we are."

Hendrick Motorsports got all four of its cars into the Chase. They'll go head-to-head with Team Penske, which has matched Hendrick all season in performance.

But not to be overlooked is Kevin Harvick, who has been one of the strongest cars in the field for 26 weeks. Harvick has pit crew issues that must be solved or he'll have his hands full with the Hendrick and Penske drivers.

Here's a look at the top teams in the 16-driver Chase field:

Hendrick Motorsports

Jeff Gordon led the points race most of the year and combined with Earnhardt and defending champion Jimmie Johnson for

nine victories in 26 races. All three drivers are three-time winners this season, and all have performed at a much higher level than Kahne, who was in danger of not even making the Chase before his win at Atlanta.

Gordon, who won his fourth title in 2001, is having a career resurgence and Earnhardt is desperately seeking his first Cup title. But Johnson wants ring No. 7, which would tie him with Hall of Famers Richard Petty and the late Dale Earnhardt for most in history.

Johnson had one of his typical summer swoons — he had only one top-10 finish in a six-week span — before snapping out of it in early August. He reeled off four consecutive top-10s the last month, but had a bout of dehydration following Saturday night's race that left the triathlete puzzled.

Earnhardt, Gordon and Johnson are expected to be contenders when the Chase opens Sunday at Chicagoland Speedway. But it remains to be seen if one of the Hendrick drivers can separate himself from his teammates.

Team Penske

Brad Keselowski entered this season determined to prove he was not a one-year wonder in 2012 when he won his championship. He failed to make the Chase last season and was ineligible to defend his title, but came back this year to earn the top seed in the field.

He picked up his series-best fourth win of the year Saturday night at Richmond, where he humiliated the field by leading all but 17 of the 400 laps. Now Keselowski and teammate Joey Logano, a three-race winner this year, are ready to go toe-to-toe with the Hendrick heavyweights.

"He was down maybe last year, but came back this season. He's been outstanding," team owner Roger Penske said of Keselowski. "I give him a lot of credit because he's pushing the team. He and Joey together, they're working with each other, trying to find the speed in the cars."

Kevin Harvick

He'll be joined in the Chase by Stewart-Haas Racing teammate Kurt Busch, but Harvick has been the far superior driver at SHR this season.

Although he has only two wins to show for his speed, he'd led 1,186 laps. Johnson believes Harvick "should have north of eight wins" this season. One of the most glaring hiccups in his program is his pit crew, which is not at the same level as the other top contenders.

Harvick has lost valuable spots on pit road repeatedly this year and said SHR should fix that.

"Hopefully they have a plan as to what they think they need to do in the shop with the two teams in the Chase, but that's not my department," Harvick said.

SHR can borrow from the pit crews of Danica Patrick or team co-owner Tony Stewart if that would help Harvick. Stewart might not object because he very much wants to see one of his cars win the championship. But Stewart is also winless on the season, and has never gone a year without a win, so there could be an emphasis on getting him into Victory Lane in the final 10 races.

"I think our cars are as fast as they need to be. The guys do a great job of bringing fast cars every week," he said. "It's just one mistake after another every week on pit road."

Around the tracks

NASCAR SPRINT CUP

This week: Myf1bstory.com 400 at Joliet, Ill.

Track: Chicagoland Speedway (oval, 1.5 miles).

Distance: 400.5 miles, 267 laps.

TV: AFN-Xtra, 8 p.m. Sunday Central European Time.

Last year: Matt Kenseth won the Chase opener for the sixth of his seven 2013 victories.

Last week: Brad Keselowski won the regular-season finale at Richmond for his series-leading fourth victory of the year and the top spot in the Chase for the Championship.

Next race: Sylvania 300, Sept. 21, New Hampshire Motor Speedway, Loudon, N.H.

Online: nascar.com

POINTS STANDINGS

| | |
|-----------------------|-------|
| 1. Brad Keselowski | 2,012 |
| 2. Jeff Gordon | 2,009 |
| 3. Dale Earnhardt Jr. | 2,009 |
| 4. Jimmie Johnson | 2,009 |
| 5. Joey Logano | 2,009 |
| 6. Kevin Harvick | 2,006 |
| 7. Carl Edwards | 2,006 |
| 8. Kyle Busch | 2,003 |
| 9. Denny Hamlin | 2,003 |
| 10. Kurt Busch | 2,003 |
| 11. Kasey Kahne | 2,003 |
| 12. Aric Almirola | 2,003 |
| 13. AJ Allmendinger | 2,003 |
| 14. Matt Kenseth | 2,000 |
| 15. Greg Biffle | 2,000 |
| 16. Ryan Newman | 2,000 |
| 17. Clint Bowyer | 746 |
| 18. Kyle Larson | 737 |
| 19. Jamie McMurray | 706 |
| 20. Paul Menard | 701 |

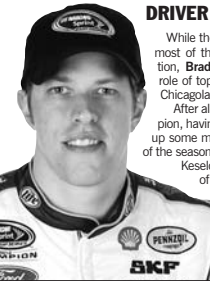
DRIVER TO WATCH

While the Hendrick Motorsports boys are grabbing most of the pre-Chase for the Championship attention, **Brad Keselowski** has quietly moved into the role of top seed when the Chase begins Sunday at Chicagoland Speedway.

After all, Keselowski is a former Sprint Cup champion, having cruised to the title in 2012 and has built up some momentum heading into the final 10 races of the season.

Keselowski has four victories this year, the most of any driver in the field, including last week in the regular-season finale at Richmond, Va.

He dominated the race, leading all but 17 of the 400 laps in taking the checkered flag to wrap up the No. 1 seed.



NATIONWIDE SERIES

This week: Jimmy John's Freaky Fast 300 300 at Joliet, Ill.

Track: Chicagoland Speedway (oval, 1.5 miles).

Distance: 300 miles, 200 laps.

TV: AFN-Xtra, delayed, 5:30 a.m. Sunday CET.

Last year: Kyle Busch raced to the 10th of his 12 2013 series victories.

Last week: Busch led all 250 laps at Richmond for his fourth victory of the year and 67th career series win.

Next race: VisitMyrtleBeach.com 300, Sept. 20, Kentucky Speedway, Sparta, Ky.

Online: nascar.com

CAMPING WORLD TRUCKS SERIES

This week: Lucas Oil 225 at Joliet, Ill.

Track: Chicagoland Speedway (oval, 1.5 miles).

Distance: 225 miles, 150 laps.

Last year: Kyle Busch raced to fourth of his five 2013 series victories.

Last week: Ryan Blaney won the road race in Bowmanville, Ontario, on Aug. 31, for his first victory of the season.

Next race: UNOH 175, Sept. 20, New Hampshire Motor Speedway, Loudon, N.H.

Online: nascar.com

FORMULA ONE

Next race: Singapore Grand Prix, Sept. 21, Marina Bay Street Circuit, Singapore.

Last week: Lewis Hamilton won the Italian Grand Prix for his sixth win of the year. He's second in the season standings, 22 points behind Nico Rosberg.

Online: formula1.com

NHRA MELLO YELLO DRAG RACING

This week: Carolina Nationals at Concord, N.C.

Track: zMAX Dragway.

TV: AFN-Xtra, 2:30 a.m. Monday CET.

Last year: Robert Hight topped the Funny Car field in the Countdown opener. Morgan Lucas won in Top Fuel, Jeg Coughlin in Pro Stock and Andrew Hines in Pro Stock Motorcycle.

Last event: Alexis DeJoria defeated John Force in the U.S. Nationals on Sept. 1 in Clermont, Ind. Richie Crump won the Top Fuel category final in the regular-season finale. Shane Gray topped the Pro Stock field and Eddie Krawiec won the Pro Stock Motorcycle event.

Next event: Texas NHRA Fall Nationals, Sept. 19-21, Texas Motorplex, Ennis, Texas.

Online: nhra.com

OTHER RACES

ARCA RACING SERIES: ARCA Fall Classic, Saturday, Salem Speedway, Salem, Ind.

Online: arcaracing.com

WORLD OF OUTLAWS: Sprint Car: Friday, Clay County Fairgrounds, Spencer, Iowa; Saturday, Deer Creek Speedway, Spring Valley, Minn. Late Model: Thursday, LaSalle Speedway, LaSalle, Ill.; Friday, Saturday, Berlin Raceway, Marne, Mich. Super DirtCar: Saturday, Mohawk International Raceway, Akwesasne, N.Y.

Online: worldofoutlaws.com

U.S. AUTO RACING CLUB: Sprint Car: Saturday, Tri-State Speedway, Haubstadt, Ind.

Online: usacracing.com

MLB

Stanton done for season as Marlins lose

NL MVP candidate hospitalized after being struck by pitch

By MARK KASS
The Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — The Miami Marlins lost much more than a game Thursday night. They've likely lost slugger Giancarlo Stanton for the rest of the season after a frightening scene at Miller Park.

Stanton sustained multiple facial fractures, dental damage and cuts that needed stitches after being hit in the face by a fast-ball from Milwaukee's Mike Fiers in a 4-2 loss to the Brewers.

The Marlins said Stanton, the major league RBI leader and a top candidate for the NL MVP award, would return to Miami on Friday.

Stanton's father was at the game and came onto the field while his son was treated. Stanton was bleeding heavily from his mouth, and was driven away from the plate in an ambulance. His dad rode with him to the hospital.

Asked if Stanton could play again this season, Marlins manager Mike Redmond said, "It does not look good."

"It's devastating for us. Devastating. For his season to end like that, I mean, that's not good," Redmond said.

Redmond said Stanton did not lose consciousness. Stanton did not say anything while down on the ground, Redmond said.

"It was very scary," Redmond said. "We're hoping he is going to be all right."

The All-Star outfielder tops the NL with 37 home runs and has 105 RBIs, and is batting .288. Miami has 17 games left this year.

It was ruled that Stanton swung trying to get out of the way of the 88 mph pitch from Fiers. Reed Johnson batted for Stanton and was hit in the hand by Fiers' next pitch, triggering a bench-clearing brawl.

Miami's Casey McGehee and Redmond



MORRIS GASH/AP

Miami's Giancarlo Stanton is taken off the field on a stretcher after being hit in the face with a pitch during the fifth inning of Thursday's game against the Brewers in Milwaukee. Stanton, the major league RBI leader and a front-runner for the NL MVP award, is likely done for the season after sustaining multiple facial fractures, dental damage and cuts needing stitches.

were ejected.

It was also ruled that Johnson swung at the pitch that hit him, ending the inning with two runners on base.

Redmond was upset with the strike calls.

"I've never seen anything like that and I've definitely never seen two swings called on those two plays," Redmond said. "I've never seen a guy get hit in the mouth and called for a swing. He's out there bleeding at home plate and for the first base ump to say he swung at that pitch, what a joke."

Plate umpire Jeff Kellogg said he con-

sulted with first base umpire D.J. Reyburn and determined that both Stanton and Johnson had swung.

"We've both looked at it and, yes, he did swing. They both did, at those pitches," Kellogg said.

Redmond and Johnson said the benches cleared because of the reaction by Fiers after Johnson got hit. Fiers threw up his hands and looked into the Marlins' dugout.

"He just knocked out our best player, hit him in the mouth and then you just hit another guy in the hand," Redmond said. "What are we supposed to do? No doubt,

we're trying to win games, they're trying to win games, but you just hit a guy in the mouth."

Fiers said he didn't want to get into what happened after Johnson was hit.

"It was heat-of-the-moment stuff," Fiers said. "I just want to make sure that Stanton is OK. I just want to send my thoughts and prayers and everything to Stanton."

"You never think of throwing at somebody like that. Never in my life has that happened. I just feel very, very sad that I hit him. I'm sorry to their teammates, their fans, his family. It is just tough."

Roundup

Red Sox snap losing streak

The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The last-place Boston Red Sox took advantage of three critical errors by the first-place Kansas City Royals and ended a four-game losing streak.

Clay Buchholz (8-8) beat the Royals for the sixth straight time. Edward Mujica handled a perfect ninth for his fifth save.

Kansas City's advantage in the AL Central dropped to a half-game over idle Detroit.

Yankees 5, Rays 4: Chris Young broke up Alex Cobb's no-hit bid in the eighth inning and then launched a three-run homer in the bottom of the ninth that rallied New York over visiting Tampa Bay.

Clinging to slim playoff hopes, New York finished 5-4 on its penultimate homestand.

White Sox 1, Athletics 0: Chris Sale bested Scott Kazmir

in a brilliant pitchers' duel, light-hitting Marcus Semien homered for the only run and host Chicago edged rapidly fading Oakland.

The A's lost for the 11th time in 14 games. Their lead in the AL wild-card race dwindled to one game over Detroit and 1½ and Seattle, both of which were idle.

Nationals 6, Mets 2: Adam LaRoche and Anthony Rendon had two-run homers off Bartolo Colon, who was ejected after hitting the following batter both times, and Washington beat New York for its 12th straight win at Citi Field.

The Nationals increased their NL East lead to 8½ games over second-place Atlanta and lowered their magic number to nine for clinching their second division title in three seasons.

Angels 7, Rangers 3: Erick Aybar hit an early two-run homer and eight pitchers combined to beat host Texas, the eighth

straight win for Los Angeles.

Reds 1, Cardinals 0: Johnny Cueto pitched eight scoreless innings to beat Lance Lynn and send visiting St. Louis to its third consecutive loss.

Giants 6, Diamondbacks 2: Jake Peavy struck out eight and didn't walk a batter to win his third start in a row and San Francisco beat Arizona for its ninth straight home victory.

Indians 8-2, Twins 2-0: Rookie T.J. House pitched seven sharp innings, Carlos Santana homered and drove in both runs and host Cleveland completed a double-header sweep over Minnesota.

Santana also homered in the first game, backing another strong performance by Corey Kluber (15-9).



CHARLIE RIEDEL/AP

Boston Red Sox second baseman Jemile Weeks throws to first after forcing out Norichika Aoki for the double play on a ball hit by the Royals' Omar Infante on Thursday in Kansas City, Mo.

BASKETBALL/TRACK AND FIELD/SPORTS BRIEFS



MANU FERNANDEZ/AP

The United States' Anthony Davis hangs onto the basket during Thursday's semifinal win over Lithuania at the Palau Sant Jordi in Barcelona, Spain.

US on to final with win over Lithuania

By BRIAN MAHONEY
The Associated Press

BARCELONA, Spain — Madrid was a success Spain doesn't.

The gold-medal matchup seemingly everyone wanted in the Basketball World Cup — maybe even some U.S. players — won't be happening. The Spanish were upset in the quarterfinals, ending the predicted No. 1 vs. No. 2 game Sunday on Spain's home court.

"I think that's one of the reasons why we came over here, was to play them," U.S. guard Derrick Rose said. "Too bad we're not playing them and hopefully we go out there in our next game and play hard and just know that we're there for a reason."

The Americans held up their end, moving within a victory of repeating as world champions for the first time with a 96-68 victory over Lithuania on Thursday.

James Harden scored all of his 16 points in the lopsided third quarter of a near carbon copy of the Americans' quarterfinal victory over Slovenia, when he awoke from a scoreless first half to help turn a close game into a blowout.

The Americans will face France or Serbia, believing either could provide the test that was expected from Spain.

"Obviously they're playing there for a reason," Harden said. "We're not going to take anyone lightly, which we haven't thus far."

They will arrive as even heavier favorites after Spain's stunning loss to France. Some U.S. players watched the game Wednesday, while others learned the result afterward.

"I don't think we're disappointed, or wished we played a certain team," Curry said. "We're happy to take care of our business."

Pistorius guilty of culpable homicide

Olympian convicted on lesser charge in killing of model Steenkamp

By GERALD IMRAY
AND CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA
The Associated Press

PRETORIA, South Africa — A South African judge on Friday found Oscar Pistorius guilty of culpable homicide, or negligent killing, in the shooting death of girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp and declared him not guilty of murder.

Judge Thokozile Masipa said there was not enough evidence to support that Pistorius knew Steenkamp was behind a locked toilet door in his home when he shot through the door in the predawn hours of Valentine's Day last year. Masipa said she found Pistorius had no intention to kill Steenkamp.

The red-robed judge ordered Pistorius, 27, to stand before she delivered the formal verdict on the multiple counts against him, and said it was a unanimous verdict, meaning she and her two legal assessors all agreed on the findings.

Unlike many other times during the trial that began in March, Pistorius showed no emotion as he stood in his dark suit with his hands crossed in front of him. The double-amputee Olympian was hugged by relatives when the judge ordered a recess soon after announcing her verdicts. A bail hearing is pending Friday afternoon.

Some legal analysts said they understood why Pistorius was found not guilty of premeditated murder but were surprised that the runner was not convicted of murder.

Pistorius then sat with his sister Aimee on the wooden bench where he has spent most of his six-month murder trial. She put an arm around his shoulders and spoke to him.

For the first time in the trial, Pistorius left



JEROME DELAY/AP

Escorted by police and security, Oscar Pistorius leaves the court in Pretoria, South Africa, on Friday. In passing judgement, Judge Thokozile Masipa ruled out a murder conviction for the double-amputee Olympian in the shooting death of his girlfriend, Reeva Steenkamp, but said he was negligent and convicted him of culpable homicide. Sentencing is set for Oct. 13.

by going down the stairs that led to the cells in the courthouse. That's because Pistorius' bail expired after his conviction and while the judge considers whether to re-grant him bail. Pistorius' lawyer, Brian Webber, said Pistorius was taken to a "holding position."

Members of Steenkamp's family, including her mother June and father Barry, were also in court to hear the verdict in the 29-year-old

model's killing.

The sentence for a culpable homicide conviction is at the judge's discretion, and it can range from a suspended sentence and a fine to up to a maximum of 15 years in prison. Sentencing was expected to be announced at a later date, when both sides could present arguments ahead of the same judge deciding on Pistorius' sentence.

Briefly

O's slugger Davis suspended 25 games

The Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Orioles slugger Chris Davis was suspended 25 games for using amphetamines, a punishment that began Friday and will extend into the postseason.

Baltimore started play Friday leading the A.L. East by 10 games with 17 left in the regular season, so the team will be without the 2013 home run champion deep into the playoffs.

In a statement, Davis said: "I apologize to my teammates, coaches, the Orioles organization and especially the fans. I made a mistake by taking Adderall. I had permission to use it in the past, but do not have a therapeutic use

exception this year. I accept my punishment and will begin serving my suspension immediately."

Fitz refutes father's tweet, accepts his role

TEMPE, Arizona — Larry Fitzgerald was quick to rebut a tweet by his father criticizing the Arizona Cardinals organization after the eight-time Pro Bowl receiver caught just one pass in the 18-17 season-opening victory over San Diego.

Larry Fitzgerald Sr., a reporter for a Minnesota newspaper, said in his tweet, "The world saw on Monday night football the politics and business of football. If it's been decided that you are not getting the ball, just win."

Larry Fitzgerald Jr. sent out his own tweet on Tuesday.

"My fathers inflammatory comments don't reflect my feelings or mood," the younger Fitzgerald wrote. "We're 1-0 & working tirelessly to be 2-0 this week that's my only concern."

NHL rules changes crack down on diving

NEW YORK — Repeat offenders for diving and their coaches will face increasingly steeper fines as part of a series of rule changes announced by the NHL.

Starting with players' fourth diving offenses, coaches will begin getting fined, too. Other rules changes announced by the league on Thursday focus on overtime, shootouts, penalties, video review, faceoffs and the trapezoid behind the net.

In shootouts, coaches no longer have to submit a list of their first three shooters. Players are also no longer able to do a "spin-orama" on penalty shots or in a shootout. In an effort to cut down on shootouts, there will be a dry scrape of the ice before overtime, something that was previously done before shootouts.

Teams will also change ends in overtime to make line changes from the defensive zone harder.

The trapezoid behind the net in which goaltenders can touch the puck will be expanded by two feet, something the NHL Players' Association recommended to make it safer for defensemen.

Texas basketball player Walker suspended

AUSTIN, Texas — Texas guard Martez Walker was suspended indefinitely from all team activities Friday after he was charged with misdemeanor assault of a woman at a campus residence hall.

Authorities were called to the dorm Wednesday night, where the woman reported being assaulted by Walker, who she described as her boyfriend. She was taken to a hospital for treatment and a warrant was issued for Walker's arrest on a charge of assault with injury/dating violence.

Further details were not immediately available, but the assault was not of a sexual nature, campus police spokeswoman Cindy Posey said.



Davis

NFL

Scoreboard

American Conference

| | W | L | T | Pct | Pf | Pa |
|--------------|---|---|---|-------|----|----|
| Miami | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1.000 | 33 | 20 |
| N.Y. Jets | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1.000 | 19 | 14 |
| Buffalo | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1.000 | 23 | 20 |
| New England | 0 | 1 | 0 | .000 | 20 | 33 |
| South | | | | | | |
| Tennessee | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1.000 | 26 | 10 |
| Houston | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1.000 | 17 | 6 |
| Jacksonville | 0 | 1 | 0 | .000 | 17 | 34 |
| Indianapolis | 0 | 1 | 0 | .000 | 24 | 31 |
| North | | | | | | |
| Cincinnati | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1.000 | 23 | 16 |
| Baltimore | 1 | 0 | 0 | .500 | 42 | 29 |
| Pittsburgh | 1 | 0 | 0 | .500 | 46 | 53 |
| Cleveland | 0 | 0 | 0 | .000 | 27 | 30 |
| West | | | | | | |
| Denver | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1.000 | 31 | 24 |
| San Diego | 0 | 1 | 0 | .000 | 17 | 18 |
| Oakland | 0 | 1 | 0 | .000 | 14 | 19 |
| Kansas City | 0 | 1 | 0 | .000 | 10 | 26 |

National Conference

| | W | L | T | Pct | Pf | Pa |
|---------------|---|---|---|-------|----|----|
| Philadelphia | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1.000 | 34 | 17 |
| Washington | 0 | 1 | 0 | .000 | 6 | 17 |
| Dallas | 0 | 1 | 0 | .000 | 17 | 28 |
| N.Y. Giants | 0 | 0 | 0 | .000 | 14 | 35 |
| South | | | | | | |
| Carolina | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1.000 | 20 | 14 |
| Atlanta | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1.000 | 27 | 34 |
| New Orleans | 0 | 1 | 0 | .000 | 34 | 37 |
| Tampa Bay | 0 | 1 | 0 | .000 | 14 | 20 |
| North | | | | | | |
| Minnesota | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1.000 | 34 | 6 |
| Detroit | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1.000 | 35 | 14 |
| Chicago | 0 | 1 | 0 | .000 | 20 | 23 |
| Green Bay | 0 | 1 | 0 | .000 | 16 | 36 |
| West | | | | | | |
| Seattle | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1.000 | 36 | 16 |
| San Francisco | 0 | 1 | 0 | .000 | 28 | 17 |
| Arizona | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1.000 | 18 | 17 |
| St. Louis | 0 | 1 | 0 | .000 | 6 | 34 |

Thursday's game

Baltimore, 26, Pittsburgh 6
Sunday's games
 Dallas at Tennessee, 1 p.m.
 New England at Minnesota, 1 p.m.
 Miami at Buffalo, 1 p.m.
 Jacksonville at Washington, 1 p.m.
 Arizona at N.Y. Giants, 1 p.m.
 Baltimore at Cincinnati, 1 p.m.
 Atlanta at Cincinnati, 1 p.m.
 Detroit at Carolina, 1 p.m.
 Seattle at San Diego, 4:05 p.m.
 St. Louis at Tampa Bay, 4:05 p.m.
 Houston at Oakland, 4:25 p.m.
 Kansas City at Denver, 4:25 p.m.
 N.Y. Jets at Green Bay, 4:25 p.m.
 Chicago at San Francisco, 8:30 p.m.

Monday's game

Philadelphia at Indianapolis, 8:30 p.m.
Thursday, Sept. 18
 Tampa Bay at Atlanta, 8:25 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 21

Dallas at St. Louis, 1 p.m.
 Minnesota at New Orleans, 1 p.m.
 San Diego at Buffalo, 1 p.m.
 Washington at Philadelphia, 1 p.m.
 Houston at N.Y. Giants, 1 p.m.
 Tennessee at Cincinnati, 1 p.m.
 Baltimore at Cleveland, 1 p.m.
 Pittsburgh at Detroit, 1 p.m.
 Indianapolis at Jacksonville, 1 p.m.
 Oakland at New England, 1 p.m.
 San Francisco at Arizona, 4:05 p.m.
 Denver at Seattle, 4:25 p.m.
 Chicago at Miami, 4:25 p.m.
 Pittsburgh at Carolina, 8:30 p.m.
Monday, Sept. 22
 Chicago at N.Y. Jets

Thursday

Ravens 26, Steelers 6

Pittsburgh 0 3 3 0
Baltimore 7 7 3 9 = 26

First Quarter

Bal—Daniels 2 passes from Flacco (Tucker kick), 27:1

Second Quarter

Bal—FG Tucker 30, 8:01.

Pit—FG Suisham 25, 2:50.

Third Quarter

Pit—FG Suisham 44, 1:09.

Bal—Daniels 1 pass from Flacco (Tucker kick), 3:58.

Fourth Quarter

Bal—FG Tucker 23, 14:11.

Bal—FG Tucker 22, 11:14.

Bal—FG Tucker 20, 4:31.

A—7:18.1.

First downs 20

Total Net Yards 301

Rushes-Yards 18-99

Passing-Yards 201

Punt Returns 2-13

Kicks 3-4

Interceptions Ret. 0-0

Comp-Att-Int 22-37

Sacked-Yards Lost 0-0

Fumbles 4-5

Penalties-Yards 9-75

Time of Possession 32:52

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing—Pittsburgh: Bell 11-59.

Bal—Adams 2-21, Brown 2-30, Miller 4-35.

J. Brown 1-6, Baltimore, Smith Sr. 6-71.

Pit—1-3, James 1-2.

Passing—Pittsburgh: Roethlisberger 21-31, 217, Baltimore, Flacco 21-29-0-166.

Receiving—Pittsburgh: A. Brown 7-96, W. Hill 2-20, Miller 4-35.

J. Brown 1-6, Baltimore, Smith Sr. 6-71.

Pit—1-3, James 1-2.

T. Smith 1-10, Pierce 1-7, Jones 1-4.

MISSED FIELD GOALS—None.

Calendar

Oct. 7-8 — Fall owners meetings, New York.

Owners want 'to get the truth'

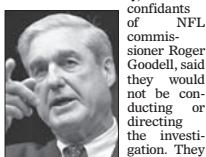
Promise public, independent investigation

By BARRY WILNER

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The two NFL owners overseeing the investigation into how the league pursued and handled evidence in the Ray Rice domestic violence case pledged on Thursday to make the findings of the probe public, and said their goal was "to get the truth."

New York Giants co-owner John Mara and Pittsburgh Steelers owner Art Rooney, both close confidants



Mueller

of NFL commissioner Roger Goodell, said they would not be conducting or directing the investigation. They said it would have no

time, and that former FBI director Robert Mueller was set to begin work immediately. They said the inquiry's focus will be on what efforts were made to obtain video evidence of the three-time Pro Bowl running back striking his fiancée; if the video arriving at the league office; and what happened to it after it was delivered.

"Our sole motive here is to get the truth and then share Mr. Mueller's findings with the public," Rooney and Mara said in a joint statement.

The probe — which the league has called independent — was announced on Wednesday hours after The Associated Press reported that a law enforcement

FROM BACK PAGE

fewer yards than Baltimore, but the turnovers made the difference. One Steelers miscue halted their opening drive, another set up a fourth-quarter field goal by Tucker, and an interception thrown by Ben Roethlisberger with 1:51 remaining ended any hope.

Some things we learned about the Ravens and Steelers:

Some fans still love Rice: Many Ravens fans threw away or swapped their No. 27 Ray Rice jerseys for pizza or \$10 bar tabs after the video was released. But some wore them Thursday night to show their support for the embattled running back.

Deby Nash was wearing a No. 55 Terrell Suggs jersey while standing outside the players' parking lot before the game. In her view, the Ravens and the NFL were too harsh on Rice.

"It was political, everyone protecting themselves," she said. "If I had a Ray Rice jersey, I'd have worn it tonight."

Ravens love Rice, too: Rice was gone, but



PATRICK SEMANSKY/AP

Janay Rice, left, looks on as her husband, Baltimore running back Ray Rice, speaks to the media on May 23 during a news conference in Owings Mills, Md. A law enforcement official says he sent a video of Ray Rice punching his then-fiancée to an NFL executive five months ago, while league officers have insisted they didn't see the violent images until this week.

'You're right. It's terrible.'

12-second recording of anonymous female at NFL offices confirming receipt of video showing Ray Rice punching then-fiancée Janay Palmer in an elevator at an Atlantic City casino

official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, sent a video to an NFL executive in April of Rice striking Janay Palmer at an Atlantic City casino.

Goodell has claimed repeatedly the NFL didn't see a full account of the fight until Monday, when TMZ posted it.

The law enforcement official said he wasn't authorized to release the video, but wanted the NFL to have it as it decided on the

Rice case. He played a 12-second voicemail confirming receipt of the video. A female voice expresses thanks and says: "You're right. It's terrible."

As Mueller begins to examine the case, he will likely start with Goodell's top administrators, who help him run America's most popular and profitable league. Baltimore Ravens owner Steve Bisciotti could also be under the lens.

Anyone at NFL headquarters could have known months ago that the video of Rice punching his then-fiancée in a hotel elevator had been sent to the league. To figure it out, Mueller will have access to anyone he wants to talk to, as well as internal NFL documents.

The National Organization for Women said Goodell should resign and an independent committee should be appointed to suggest lasting reforms, calling the Mueller investigation "just window dressing."

AP Sports Writer Ronald Blum contributed to this story from New York. Associated Press Writer Pete Yost contributed from Washington.

Highly: Steelers shoot themselves in foot with miscues

will never be forgotten by his teammates.

"He's still a great guy," wide receiver Torrey Smith said. "Take away those two minutes of his life and he's a model citizen. He's a great person."

Rookie linebacker C.J. Mosley said: "Even though he messed up, every man got to go through their mistakes to get better. We wish him the best, but as a team we've just got to keep moving forward."

Limited mobility: The Steelers had only occasional bursts of sustained offense. Roethlisberger said the problem was mainly on first down, when Pittsburgh frequently didn't get big enough gains and put itself in second-and-long situations.

On their initial eight first downs, the Steelers gained a total of 17 yards.

"First down, we just kept getting behind the chains and we can't do that," Roethlisberger said.

Flag day: Penalties continued to plague the Steelers, who were whistled for 75 yards on nine infractions, including two unnecessary

roughness calls in the span of three plays on a Baltimore scoring drive in the third quarter.

Last week, it was 11 flags for 96 yards. Head coach Mike Tomlin is tired of seeing yellow fluttering through the air. Add in the three turnovers, and it's a recipe for disaster.

"A lot of the self-inflicted wounds are going to prevent you from being in a football game like that," Tomlin said. "We turned the ball over too often (and) were highly penalized, particularly on the drives that they were able to manufacture and produce points."

Rare blowouts: Nine of the previous 10 games between these AFC North rivals had been decided by three points or fewer. This one was a relative rout.

"We've only played a couple where they haven't been tight all the way," Flacco said. "And even this one, not until the very end did you feel very comfortable."

Steelers rookie Ryan Shazier said, "That was probably one of the more physical games I've ever played in my life. I can't wait until we get our second chance to play them."

College GameDay



TIMOTHY D. EASLEY/AP

Player to watch

L.J. Scott RB | Louisville

Scott ran for 126 yards in Saturday night's game against FCS-level Murray State. He carried the ball 11 times and had a short touchdown in Louisville's 66-21 rout, helping the No. 21 Cardinals (2-0, 1-0 Atlantic Coast Conference) amass 325 yards on the ground.

Most importantly, Scott showed he can add running back depth for Louisville as the Cardinals travel to Virginia (1-1, 0-0) on Saturday.

No. 21 Louisville at Virginia
6:30 p.m. Saturday
Central European Time
AFN-Xtra



TIM DOMINICK, THE STATE/MCT

South Carolina defensive tackle Gerald Dixon Jr. (92) blocks a field-goal attempt by East Carolina last week. After a 52-28 season-opening conference loss to Texas A&M, the No. 24 Gamecocks are looking to regain favor in the SEC with a chance to upset No. 6 Georgia on Saturday.

THE POWER CONFERENCES

| ACC | | | |
|---------------------|---|-------|-----|
| Atlantic Division | | Conf. | All |
| | | W | L |
| Louisville..... | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Florida St..... | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| NC State..... | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Syracuse..... | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Clemson..... | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Wake Forest..... | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Boston College..... | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Coastal Division | | Conf. | All |
| | | W | L |
| Pittsburgh..... | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Duke..... | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Georgia Tech..... | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| North Carolina..... | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Virginia Tech..... | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Virginia..... | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Miami..... | 0 | 1 | 1 |

Game of the week: No. 21 Louisville at Virginia. The Cardinals (2-0, 1-0) beat Miami in their league debut and play their first ACC road game Saturday against Virginia (1-1). Bobby Petrino's Cards are in a favorable front half of the schedule before getting into the Atlantic Division's heavy hitters (at Clemson, home vs. No. 1 Florida State).

Inside the numbers: Saturday's Kansas-Duke game brings together basketball powers heading in different directions on the gridiron. Coming off a 10-win season, David Cutcliffe's Blue Devils can start 3-0 for the first time in 20 years. The Jayhawks are looking for their first road win in five years and stand at just 5-20 in three years under Charlie Weis.

Player to watch: Pittsburgh tailback James Conner. He's averaging an ACC-best 183.5 yards rushing per game and has run for at least 150 yards in three straight going back to last season's bowl game.

| Big Ten | | | |
|---------------------|---|-------|-----|
| East | | Conf. | All |
| | | W | L |
| Rutgers..... | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Penn State..... | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Indiana..... | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Maryland..... | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Michigan..... | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Michigan State..... | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Ohio State..... | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| West | | Conf. | All |
| | | W | L |
| Nebraska..... | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Illinois..... | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Iowa..... | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Minnesota..... | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Purdue..... | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Wisconsin..... | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Northwestern..... | 0 | 0 | 2 |

Game of the week: Penn State at Rutgers. This is the first Big Ten game for Rutgers, and Penn State is a fitting opponent. The schools are less than a four-hour drive apart, forming a triangle with Maryland in the Big Ten's eastern footprint that will bring increased recruiting competition along the seaboard.

Inside the numbers: The Big Ten has the worst nonconference (20-7) mark of the five major leagues. ... Northwestern, joining Michigan State and Wisconsin on the idle list this week, has lost nine of its last 10 games. ... Penn State's Sam Ficken (4-for-4) is the only perfect field-goal kicker left with more than two attempts.

Player to watch: Illinois QB Wes Lunt. The sophomore completed 35 of 50 passes for 456 yards and three touchdowns to lead the Illini's comeback victory over Western Kentucky. Lunt's yardage total was the fourth-highest in program history.

| Big 12 | | | |
|---------------------|---|---|---|
| Conf. | | W | L |
| Kansas State..... | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Oklahoma..... | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| TCU..... | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Baylor..... | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Texas Tech..... | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Kansas..... | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Oklahoma State..... | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Texas..... | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| West Virginia..... | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Iowa State..... | 0 | 1 | 2 |

Game of the week: Arkansas at Texas Tech. A matchup of former Southwest Conference rivals playing for the first time since 1991, the Razorbacks' last SWC season before moving to the SEC. "More than anything, just a former Southwest Conference opponent in the big build-up here," Red Raiders coach Kliff Kingsbury said when asked about hosting an SEC team.

Inside the numbers: Seven of the nine Big 12 games this week are against other power conferences and teams with a combined 13-1 record. Texas and UCLA have both won three games in their series filled with not-so-close scores. None of the last five games have been closer than 18 points, including a 66-3 UCLA win in 1997. **Player to watch:** Iowa State receiver Jarvis West. He became only the third FBS or FCS player since 1998 to have a TD catch, TD pass and punt return for a TD in the same game.

| Pac-12 | | | |
|-----------------------|---|-------|-----|
| North | | Conf. | All |
| | | W | L |
| California..... | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Washington..... | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Oregon..... | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Oregon State..... | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Washington State..... | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Stanford..... | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| South | | Conf. | All |
| | | W | L |
| USC..... | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Arizona..... | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Utah..... | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Arizona State..... | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| UCLA..... | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Colorado..... | 0 | 0 | 1 |

Game of the week: Army at No. 15 Stanford. Stanford tries to regroup from a frustrating 13-10 home loss to Southern California last week before a series of difficult Pac-12 road games. Army aims to start 2-0 under new coach Jeff Monken. Army's tricky triple-option offense gave Stanford trouble during the first half of the Cardinal's 34-20 win at West Point last season. Stanford's reconstructed defense allowed 156 yards rushing to USC last week.

Inside the numbers: It's still early and some of the opponents haven't exactly been stellar, but the Pac-12 has six teams averaging over 200 yards rushing per game. **Player to watch:** D.J. Foster, Arizona State. He moved into the featured-back role late last season and has flourished this season, rushing for a career-best 216 yards against New Mexico last weekend.

SERVICE ACADEMIES

Air Force
at Georgia State
Last week: Lost 17-13 at Wyoming
Next game: vs. Boise State, Sept. 27

Army
at No. 15 Stanford
Last week: Did not play
Next game: At Wake Forest, Sept. 20

Navy
at Texas State
Last week: Beat Temple, 31-24
Next game: vs. Rutgers, Sept. 20

| AP TOP 25 SCHEDULE | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Thursday's game | |
| No. 25 BYU | 33, Houston 25 |
| Friday's game | |
| No. 8 Baylor | at Buffalo |
| Saturday's games | |
| No. 2 Oregon | vs. Wyoming |
| No. 3 Alabama | vs. Southern Miss. |
| No. 4 Oklahoma | vs. Tennessee |
| No. 6 Georgia | at No. 24 South Carolina |
| No. 7 Texas A&M | vs. Rice |
| No. 9 Southern Cal | at Boston College |
| No. 10 LSU | vs. Louisiana-Monroe |
| No. 11 Notre Dame | vs. Purdue at Indianapolis |
| No. 12 UCLA | vs. Texas at Arlington, Texas |
| No. 14 Mississippi | vs. Louisiana |
| No. 15 Stanford | vs. Army |
| No. 16 Arizona State | at Colorado |
| No. 17 Virginia Tech | vs. East Carolina |
| No. 20 Missouri | vs. UCF |
| No. 21 Louisville | at Virginia |
| No. 22 Ohio State | vs. Kent State |

Game of the week: No. 6 Georgia at No. 24 South Carolina. Two of the nation's elite running backs — Todd Gurley and Mike Davis — meet in Columbia on Saturday. The Bulldogs looked impressive during their opening-week victory over Clemson and had last weekend off to prepare. The Gamecocks were embarrassed in their season-opening loss to Texas A&M, but bounced back with a 33-23 victory against East Carolina and could jump right back into the league-title conversation with a big home win. **Inside the numbers:** Florida has beaten Kentucky 27 consecutive times, which represents the longest active winning streak over a major opponent in an annual series. **Player to watch:** Alabama's Amari Cooper. He has been the most prolific receiver in the nation through the first two weeks. Cooper leads all FBS players in receptions (25) and receiving yards (319).

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Dual-threat QB Hill leads BYU past Houston

Cougars off to best start since 2008

By ANNE M. PETERSON
The Associated Press

PROVO, Utah — If Taysom Hill needs to take off running 26 times every game, so be it. As long as BYU is winning.



Hill

The dual-threat junior quarterback ran for 160 yards on 26 carries with one score, and threw for 200 yards and another in No. 25 BYU's 33-25 victory over

Houston on Thursday night.

"My mindset is, whatever it takes," he said.

Jamaal Williams rushed for 139 yards and two TDs for BYU, which has won its opening three games for the first time since 2008. BYU moved into the rankings after a 41-7 victory over Texas last weekend.

But it wasn't pretty.

BYU jumped out to an early 23-0 lead, but Houston (1-2) scored 15 straight points before halftime. Overall, BYU had 11 penalties for 98 yards, had a player ejected, and committed three turnovers.



RICK BOWMER/AP

BYU running back Jamaal Williams (21) carries the ball through the Houston defense during the first quarter of Thursday's game in Provo, Utah. Williams rushed for 139 yards and two touchdowns as BYU won 33-25.



MARK J. TERRILL/AP

UCLA quarterback Brett Hundley will lead the No. 12 Bruins into Arlington, Texas, on Saturday to face the Longhorns, who are looking to bounce back after a 41-7 blowout loss to BYU last week.

Things to know

Georgia-South Carolina only Top 25 game on slate

By ERIC OLSON
The Associated Press

Sixth-ranked Georgia can stamp itself the favorite in the SEC East when it visits No. 24 South Carolina on Saturday in this week's only Top 25 matchup.

Meanwhile, UCLA fans want to know if the real Bruins will stand up. Oklahoma will try for another win against the SEC, the conference Bob Stoops loves to poke. And Arkansas visits Texas Tech for the first time since 1991, when they were members of the old Southwest Conference.

Here are some things to know before college football's third weekend kicks off.

Beast of SEC East: Georgia (2-0) is getting a lot of love lately. South Carolina (1-1), not so much.

The Bulldogs throttled Clemson in their opener and zoomed from No. 12 to No. 6 in the rankings. They had last week off to prepare for their SEC opener against a South Carolina team that's been one of the season's early disappointments.

Georgia has lost three of the last four times it visited Columbia. A win is in store this time if Heisman Trophy candidate Todd Gurley and first-year starting QB Hutson Mason do what they're capable of against the Gamecocks' new 3-4 defense that ranks 123rd out of 127 FBS teams.

Seeking an identity: Before the season UCLA-Texas was regarded as one of the red-letter non-conference matchups. The No. 12 Bruins are 2-0 but are yet to play a complete game and look vulnerable. Between suspensions and an injury to quarterback David Ash, Texas is 1-1 and trending downward after a second straight embarrassing loss to BYU.

For the Longhorns, a second straight blowout loss would be devastating.

Things in Austin were so bad after the 41-7 loss to BYU that some wisecracker made a YouTube video with Sesame Street character Grover narrating all the ways quarterback Taysom Hill went around over, under and through the Texas defense.

Another big game for Bob: Oklahoma coach Bob Stoops is 12-0 at home against current teams from the SEC, not to mention 23-7 overall after his Sooners beat Alabama in the Sugar Bowl.

Never mind that No. 4 OU (2-0) will be a three-touchdown favorite when Tennessee (2-0) shows up in Norman. This might not be a vintage Volunteers team, but it's still one of the weekend's intriguing games. These two big-name programs haven't met since 1968. And don't forget Stoops' penchant for taking shots at the SEC's sense of superiority whenever he can.

SWC Flashback: Arkansas (1-1) built some confidence with its record-smashing offensive production against FCS Nicholls State. Now it's back to reality against Texas Tech (2-0).

The Razorbacks, who have lost seven straight road games since 2012, must limit possession time for Davis Webb and Texas Tech's fast-moving offense. They have the running backs to do it, with Jonathan Williams and Alex Collins among the top six SEC rushers.

SPORTS



Marlins lose Stanton

Slugger done for season after being hit in face by pitch | **MLB, Page 27**

NFL



GAIL BURTON, ABOVE, AND PATRICK SEMANSKY, BELOW/AP

Above: Baltimore running back Justin Forsett breaks away from Pittsburgh defensive end Cameron Heyward, left, and free safety Mike Mitchell, right, during the second half of Thursday's game in Baltimore. Below: Racquel Bailey wears a Ray Rice jersey as she tailgates before the game.

Some things we learned

Highly motivated

Ravens hammer Steelers, win one for Rice

By DAVID GINSBURG
The Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Many wondered if the Baltimore Ravens were resilient enough to overcome the distraction of losing Ray Rice and the emotional stress caused by his release from the team.

The Ravens weren't among the doubters.

Playing a pivotal divisional game three days after the release of the star running back, Baltimore (1-1) got a pair of touchdown passes from Joe Flacco and rolled

Inside:

■ Owners say investigation will be independent, **Page 29**

past the rival Pittsburgh Steelers 26-6 on Thursday night.

"We've been through a lot together," Flacco said. "No matter what it is, I think we're a team that tends to group together through tough times. I never had a doubt that we (would) be able to come out here and go get a win tonight."

Rice was reaching the end of a two-game suspension for domestic violence when a video of him striking his then-fiancée surfaced Monday. By the end of the day, the three-time Pro Bowler had been cut by Baltimore and suspended indefinitely by the NFL.

"We had a tough family situation this week," coach John Harbaugh said. "I thought our guys handled it tremendously — with class, with character. They responded."

Pittsburgh (1-1) finished with only 22
SEE HIGHLY ON PAGE 29



Judge says Pistorius guilty of culpable homicide
Track and field, Page 28

It's elimination time as NASCAR's Chase begins
Auto racing, Pages 24-25